

FINGER-LICKIN' GOOD



SUNDAY STORY

PAGE 13

ED's long arm

How the Enforcement Directorate has transformed from a small enforcement agency prosecuting civil offences to 'the new CBI'

BIG PICTURE

PAGES 14-15

Running on empty

Roads are deserted, worker colonies empty as Jagan govt halts work at Naidu's dream capital city of Amaravati



In most meals, the chutney is on the margins of the plate. But it remains the common taste that binds our multicultural eating practices together

HARYANA ALL SET TO CONQUER NEW HORIZONS
Air Shuttle Services & Flying Training Organisation (FTO) at Hisar Airport Started

MANOHAR SARKAR VIKAS APAAR

DIRECT FLIGHT SERVICE BY SPICEJET

Hisar Chandigarh

Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

CHANDRAYAAN-2: SO CLOSE AND YET

Final five mins and the heartbreak hours: Watching hope crash in mission control

As green dot went off course, it was clear lander was not slowing down at required rate

AMITABH SINHA
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 7

AT 1.50 am on Saturday morning, more than 11 minutes after the Vikram lander of the Chandrayaan-2 mission began its final descent to the Moon, there was energetic applause from the scientists at the mission operations complex at the ground tracking centre in Bengaluru. The velocity of the lander had fallen below 200 metres per second, brought down from the initial 1,680 metres/sec, and an important small milestone had been crossed.

Vikram was on its way to land on the Moon as per plan. The bulk of the deceleration had already been achieved, and the next phase of the descent, during which the velocity was supposed to be brought down to about 2 metres/sec, was expected to be smoother.

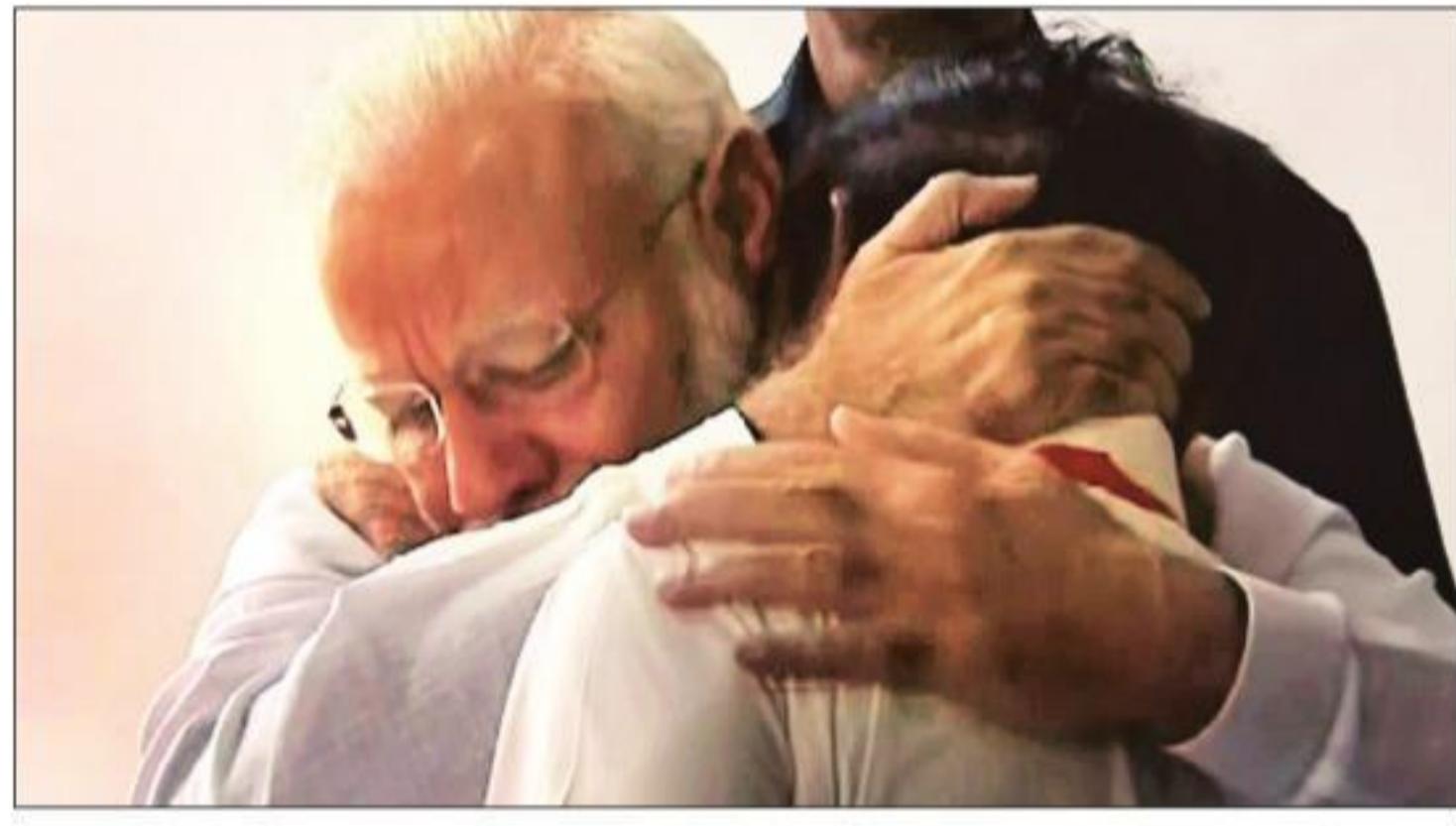
On a large screen, a green dot, representing the actual change in the velocity of Vikram, was moving exactly along the red line

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FULL COVERAGE
PAGE 7

The effort was worth it, so was the journey. It will make us stronger... There will be a new dawn and brighter tomorrow very soon... I am with you, nation is with you

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi consoles ISRO chief K Sivan, in Bengaluru on Saturday. ANI

Vikram lander's failure raises questions on manned mission

AMITABH SINHA
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 7

THE FAILURE of the Vikram lander module of Chandrayaan-2 to land on the moon as planned is likely to have repercussions on some of ISRO's other missions in the pipeline.

particularly Gaganyaan — the manned space mission which is scheduled for 2022.

ISRO also has several other high-profile missions lined up for the next few years, including a mission to the Sun, a mission to Venus, and a stated plan to set up a permanent space station. Though Chandrayaan-2 is

still likely to deliver on the bulk of its science objectives since the Orbiter module — which is supposed to carry out most of the scientific investigations over the next one year — has remained unaffected, the failure to make a soft landing on the Moon could raise questions on ISRO's ability

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Delhi Police set to close cheating case against former SC employee

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

THE DELHI Police has prepared a closure report in a case of alleged cheating filed in March against a former Supreme Court woman employee after the complainant in the case told police he didn't want to pursue "any further legal action" against her.

The woman accused in this case is the same person who, in April, had levelled allegations of sexual harassment against Chief

Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi. An in-house inquiry committee of the Supreme Court had in May given the CJI a clean chit, concluding it "found no substance" in the woman employee's allegations of sexual harassment.

Naveen Kumar, the 31-year-old complainant in the cheating case, had accused the woman of taking Rs 50,000 from him on the pretext of getting him a job at the Supreme Court.

When contacted, Kumar told *The Sunday Express*, "It is my personal matter and decision... I

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Tripura University V-C resigns after sting video, claims threat to life

SOURAV ROY BARMAN &
RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

DAYS AFTER a purported sting video showed him allegedly accepting a bribe, Tripura Central University Vice-Chancellor (V-C) V L Dharurkar resigned on Saturday citing "threat" to his life.

The *Sunday Express* has learnt that the government is not keen on keeping Dharurkar. The HRD Ministry forwarded his resignation letter to President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday itself.

VL Dharurkar was appointed in July 2018

Appointed in July 2018, Dharurkar had almost four years left of his term.

In the video clip aired by a local news channel earlier this week, Dharurkar is purportedly seen negotiating and accepting a bribe from a representative

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WORLD
TEHRAN FIRES UP ADVANCED CENTRIFUGES
PAGE 19

GOVT & POLITICS
OPPOSITION RAISES RESIGNATION OF MADRAS HIGH COURT CHIEF JUSTICE
PAGE 9



The parlour inside Tihar's Jail No. 6 is run by inmates

Ahead of Saturday 'mulaqaat', inmates throng Tihar beauty parlour

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

BETWEEN 9 am and noon on a muggy day earlier this week, at least 22 clients had visited Grace Beauty Parlour for hair cuts, threading, face-packs and fruit facials.

"It has been busy, but the biggest rush is on Fridays," said the 34-year-old woman from Manipur at the parlour that opened inside Tihar's jail no. 6, which houses women inmates.

Manipuri woman faces charges of peddling drugs, the other two women are accused in cases of murder. A 30-year-old woman jail matron watches over them as they go about their business.

"There are scissors, tweezers, nail filers at the parlour. I keep

some two months ago.

Fridays are busy because Saturdays are "mulaqaat" days for inmates inside the women's jail. "Members of the inmates' families — husbands, children, parents, siblings — visit on Saturdays, and the women want to look their best, often for their children... It's been quite successful," Sarita Sabharwal, superintendent of the women's jail, said.

Jail no. 6 has, in fact, had a parlour for years. Grace Beauty Parlour is an extension of the existing one — bigger, with more

sophisticated machines, and more services. The older parlour provided only limited services.

The inmate from Manipur, an undertrial prisoner in Tihar, manages the parlour from 9 am to 5 pm every day, along with two other undertrial women. The Manipuri woman faces charges of peddling drugs, the other two women are accused in cases of murder. A 30-year-old woman jail matron watches over them as they go about their business.

"There are scissors, tweezers, nail filers at the parlour. I keep

them locked, and hand them over to the team of three when they're needed. I also manage a product log, and buy the things that the women clients want.

Bindis, mehendi, and plastic bangles are currently in high demand, so I need to re-stock those," the matron said.

A rate card for services hangs inside the parlour. Nailcutting services cost Rs 5, a scrub Rs 30, streaks Rs 200, and a "VLCC facial", Rs 450.

The Manipuri woman, who

has been in Tihar for over two years, said that she worked in beauty parlours in Delhi and Bengaluru for eight years before circumstances brought her to Tihar Jail. "When I began working at this parlour, I told my family that from 9 am to 5 pm, I feel like I am not even lodged inside a jail," she said.

From noon to 3 pm every day, jail no. 6 is in lockdown, with inmates inside the barracks. That is the time for jail staff to avail of services at the parlour.

The air-conditioned room

for head spas, hair dryers, a facial bed, a choice of Aroma and VLCC face products, and a wide range of nail paint, the most popular product.

Since June, at least 72 bottles of nail paint have been used at the parlour, the matron said, going through the register. "For the Saturday mulaqaat, most women request red nail paint.

When they have a court hearing outside Tihar, they seem to like transparent paint the most, and foreigners want black nail paint," the matron said.

New Delhi



To visit Iceland, Switzerland and Slovenia

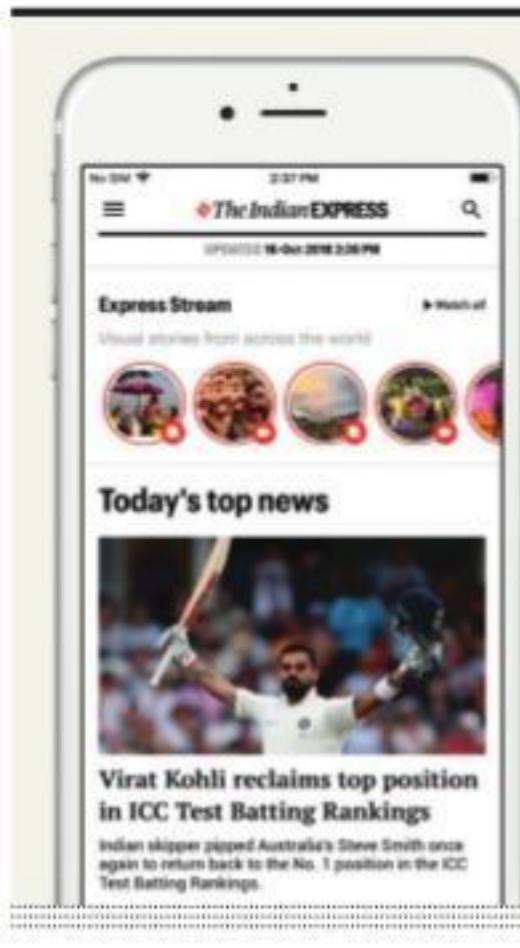
approved by Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan in view of the situation in Kashmir.

Responding to a query on the issue, the Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said: "We regret the decision of the Government of Pakistan to deny overflight clearance for the VVIP special flight which is otherwise granted routinely by any normal country."

We call upon Pakistan to recognise the futility of such unilateral actions."

In August, Modi used the air-space over Pakistan on his way

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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DANIIL MEDVEDEV: A PANTOMIME RUSSIAN ANTAGONIST IN NEW YORK

Daniil Medvedev, quite uncharacteristically, lifted his hands and just clapped his racket like a mild-mannered person in admiration of the New York crowd after his US Open semi-final win against Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov Friday. Turning the clock to a week back, the Russian's antics on reaching his first-ever Grand Slam final was almost an unthinkable thought

VIDEO OF THE DAY



CHANDRAYAAN-2 SETBACK

PM Narendra Modi consoles ISRO chief

FULL COVERAGE



ISRO'S VIKRAM LANDER IS LOST

But this hardly matters. Here's why.

EXPRESS AUDIO

Is Bumrah a bigger match winner than Kohli?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of Express Sports, hosts Daksh and Gaurav discuss if Jasprit Bumrah is a bigger asset to the Indian cricket team than Virat Kohli

KCR's face etched on temple pillars, Oppn hits out

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 7

OPPOSITION PARTIES in Telangana have slammed Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao for allegedly portraying himself as a god after inscriptions of his face were found etched on pillars on the Yadadri temple, which is being renovated and expanded. The TRS symbol (car) was also carved on some pillars.

While the Congress and BJP called it a shameful act, the CEO of Yadadri Temple Development Authority, Kishan Rao, said that some craftsmen etched KCR's face on pillars in admiration. "Neither the CM nor the government interfered or asked them to do it. The workers did it on their own. There are also carvings of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. In any temple there are symbols to indicate the period during which it was built and the culture of the time. There is no political motive. If there are objections, we will remove them," Rao said.

The Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swami Temple at Yadagirigutta Hills, now known as Yadadri, is a famous temple in Telangana. KCR had launched a Rs 1,800 crore expansion and renovation project for the temple to rival Tirupati temple.

The temple's chief architect Anand Sai pointed out that carvings of lotus and cycle (party symbols of BJP and TDP) can also be found on the pillars. "These are done by sculptors on their own. They carved KCR's face out of admiration, not due to pressure. Carvings in temples are done reflecting the events of the period," Sai said.

However, BJP MLA T Raja Singh said KCR was trying to project himself as a demi-god. "I think they are even making idols of KCR to put in the temple. This is shameful. All such carvings and inscriptions should be removed," he said. Congress leader Vijayashanti Srinivas said that KCR was behaving like a medieval king by getting inscriptions of his face on temple pillars.

Former Congress MP G Narayan Reddy said KCR is an elected public representative and not a king. "Mixing religion with politics is unconstitutional," he said.

UP ministers to get leadership lessons from IIM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 7

THE INDIAN Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow will conduct three sessions starting Sunday on 'Leadership Development Programme' for all the ministers in the Uttar Pradesh government.

The programme is scheduled to take place on September 8, 15 and 22 and will focus on different aspects of leadership and decision making. The event on Sunday will also be attended by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

According to a press statement issued by the government, the programme is designed to help political leaders demonstrate capabilities to think strategically and implement them, keeping in mind today's dynamic and globally integrated scenario. Each module would be delivered through a blend of individual and group learning methods that would include group discussions, case analysis, exercise, simulations, audio visual and groups assessment.

FROM PAGE ONE

Final 5 minutes

that represented the prescribed change in velocity for a safe landing.

Less than a minute later, the green dot appeared to break away from the red line. It moved inwards, indicating that the rate of change in actual velocity, or deceleration, was happening slower than what was prescribed. It meant that the lander was not slowing down at the required rate.

The green dot's movement was noticed by everyone, but no one showed any signs of worry. Probably because, barely half a minute earlier, the dot had appeared to move away from the prescribed line, but had got back on track.

But this time was different. The green dot kept moving along an independent path for a few more seconds. About 15 seconds later, the first signs of worry appeared on the faces of some scientists, as an announcement was made that the signal from the lander was not being received. The announcement was not heard by people outside the control room, and probably not understood by anyone other than the scientists.

Instructions were exchanged among scientists to make efforts to re-establish contact with the lander. But with the passing seconds, the anxiety on the faces of some of the scientists gave the first indications that something was amiss. At 1.55 am, 17 minutes after the descent began, and about a minute and a half after the loss of signal, ISRO chairman K Sivan, sitting with a row of senior scientists in front of giant screens, pushed his chair back, got up, and walked towards his predecessor AS Kiran Kumar, who was standing a few feet away.

In the visitors' gallery, veteran ISRO scientist B N Suresh, who was explaining some things to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stopped and looked anxiously towards Sivan. Another veteran ISRO scientist, P S Goel, seated next to the Prime Minister, nervously got to his feet. The seniors could sense what was coming.

As Sivan and Kiran Kumar held discussions with other scientists, another announcement was made that signals from the lander were still not being received. At the time contact was lost, Vikram was just about 2 km above the moon's surface. It was travelling at a speed of about 60 metres/sec, and dropping vertically at about 48 metres/sec. It was clear that if the velocity was not reduced immediately, the lander would meet the Moon's surface at great speed within a few seconds.

But contact with the lander had been lost, and scientists had no way to ascertain whether Vikram had decelerated as it had been programmed to. Nor could they intervene from the ground station to control the speed, if the lander was not being able to do so on its own. They were helpless.

At this point, the most optimistic hope was that the lander had actually completed its descent as planned, but its communication system had developed a problem, because of which contact had been lost. And the worst case scenario was that it had hit the Moon at an uncontrolled higher speed.

Even as Sivan and Kiran Kumar worked with the scientists trying to re-establish contact, the drooping shoulders and despairing faces told the story. Five minutes later, Sivan decided to finally break the news to the Prime Minister.

He listened intently and,

'Easing of curbs in J&K depends on Pak'

media, were invited for the interaction in the Prime Minister's Office.

Replies to questions on the detention of scores of politicians, including three former chief ministers of J&K, Doval said the detentions were all preventive in nature and that no one has been charged with any criminal offence. "At this stage, we cannot allow politicians to address gatherings of large crowds," he asserted.

"Such a situation can be used by militants and it will be up to the state government to decide when to release them and when the environment is conducive."

He added that over the decades, politicians in J&K had no accountability towards the people and that at present, village leaders and sarpanches had gained in popularity.

Doval said all the actions of the Centre were "justiciable", hinting that issues such as the

removal of statehood and the preventive detentions could be confronted legally. "Everything being done is justiciable and people can challenge the actions in court like some have already done. They can complain and attempt to get a redressal. We will explain in court or pay the cost."

Giving an assessment of the ground situation, Doval pointed out that restrictions had been lifted in 92 per cent of the area of Jammu and Kashmir and that, gradually, further restrictions would also be removed. He, however, did not commit to any time-frame for this.

He acknowledged that the absence of Internet and mobile telephony was causing prolonged hardship but added, "People were not born with Internet. For us, it is more important to protect the right of life of the people and keep them safe."

Elaborating on the hard in-

telligence being gathered since signals from mobile towers located along the border can be intercepted, Doval revealed that they had recently received information about 230 militants waiting to infiltrate into the Valley along 10 border posts. Some of them have been arrested but some have also managed to infiltrate. Subversion is the only instrument available with Pakistan but we are determined to stop them and prevent them from smuggling arms into India," he asserted.

He said he was particularly "disturbed" when on Friday night militants attacked the family members of Hamidullah Rather, an apple trader residing in Dangarpura, a village close to the fruit market of Sopore. The attack was aimed at stopping the transit of 750 trucks laden with apples to reach markets across the country. The trader's son and grand-daughter were injured in the attack and the

child was now being brought to the Capital for treatment, he said, adding that the militants were on the run.

The NSA spoke at length on the background to the abrogation of Article 370 and described it as an "internal arrangement" of India. He said, "The Constitution has been amended several times and this is an internal matter for India. (This is the BJP) is the party which has come to power and abrogation is something that has been put out in its election manifesto every time. Just prior to the 2019 elections, the night militants attacked the family members of Hamidullah Rather, an apple trader residing in Dangarpura, a village close to the fruit market of Sopore. The attack was aimed at stopping the transit of 750 trucks laden with apples to reach markets across the country. The trader's son and grand-daughter were injured in the attack and the

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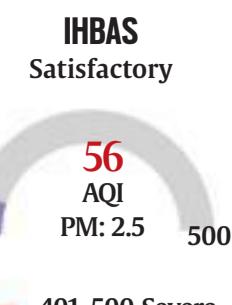
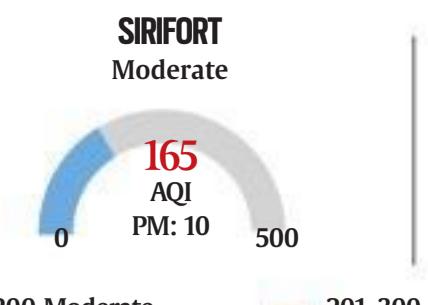
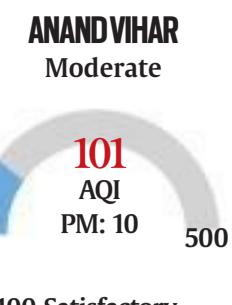
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0-50 Good



AFTER FINE RAISED TO Rs 10,000

Queues lasting 10 hrs as vehicle owners scurry to get pollution certificates

SHIVAM PATEL & ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

QUEUES EXTENDING for more than 10 hours, squabbles over waiting time and hundreds of vehicles being checked for emissions — a week after the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, came into force, pollution checking centres in Delhi-NCR have seen a sudden hike in customers.

On Saturday, several pollution checking centres in Delhi's Kalkaji, Lodhi Road, Karol Bagh, Patparganj and nearby Noida and Gurgaon had hundreds of vehicles waiting in queues to take a test for the "pollution under check" (PUC) certificate.

A senior Delhi transport department official said more than 50,000 PUC certificates were issued Saturday — far more than



Long line at a pollution checking centre in Greater Noida. Praveen Khanna

the roughly 10,000 a day from previous months.

"There is a three-fold increase in the number of vehicles taking the tests at centres, and this is because the penalty amount for violating emission norms has also increased... This is a positive step and it will keep air pollution in check in the city," the official said.

Under the amended act, the penalty for PUC violations has increased to Rs 10,000. The fine used to be Rs 1,000 for first offence and Rs 2,000 for subsequent violations. An attendant at a Kalkaji pollution checking centre said, "People who were not willing to wait even a minute are waiting for hours. A customer demanded to be served first claiming he is a doctor, we told him to

come back early tomorrow."

At a station near Lodhi Road, around 200 vehicles were waiting to be checked. Around 150 would be checked by the end of day, attendants said, citing frequently crashing servers and commotion caused by people jumping the queue.

Puya Lal (60), an autorickshaw driver, was in queue near

Lodhi Road since 10 am. "I came yesterday and all slots were filled. I returned today, they tested my rickshaw by 4 pm but told me it failed. I will have to wait four more hours to get it redone."

A PUC test involves checking for air pollutants emitted by vehicles, such as carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. The test costs between Rs 60 and Rs 100. The validity of the certificate is one year for BS IV vehicles and three months for others.

Noida

Long queues were witnessed at checking centres in Sectors 10 and 98. A staff member at a testing centre in Sector 10 said, "Till last month, we would sit idle in our cabin with a few vehicles coming in. Now there's no time to eat lunch."

After closing time, vehicles that are still in queue have to

come back the following day to queue again, and there is a first come first served policy. A resident of Sector 93 said the closest checking centre in Sector 105 had long queues Friday and Saturday.

"In front of the centre, there were some bike owners who had snatched the machine from the operator and were checking their bike exhausts themselves, without any regard for people waiting in queues," he said.

Gurgaon

Babloo Kumar, a pollution check employee at a petrol station near IFFCO Chowk Metro station, said, "We used to get 10-15 cars per day; now it's 40-50. But there is no jam as such, it is quite smooth." Anil Kumar, who works at a petrol station nearby, also attested that while the rush was intense for the first two days, it has gone down now.

26 fire tenders were deployed at the site. Praveen Khanna

Accountant dead as godown full of oil goes up in flames

ents and brother in Prem Nagar.

Garg said the fire spread to a godown next door as well, but was contained there. "The buildings are 500 square yards in size and have no fire NOC," said Garg.

Sharma said the setback area — three metres in size around the godown — had three tankers filled with oil. "One tanker had a capacity of 15,000-20,000 litres, and the other two had a capacity of 10,000 litres each. The area was used to store hazardous material," said Sharma.

The charred body of Romit Kumar, an accountant at the godown, was found inside his cabin on the first floor at 8 pm. "We received a call at 4:57 pm, and around 8 pm, a man walked up to us and said he couldn't find his brother who worked at the godown. The fire had been doused by then and the cooling operation was on," said Ajay Sharma, divisional fire officer.

Sharma said a team of fire-fighters was formed to find Kumar. "His body was found inside his cabin. When we reached the spot, no one took responsibility of the building, and as per protocol, firefighters asked if anyone was trapped. We received no such information," said Sharma.

Additional DCP (West) Sameer Sharma said Kumar's family reached the spot after they couldn't get through his phone. Kumar lived with his par-

ents and brother in Prem Nagar.

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was used to store hazardous ma

terial," said Sharma.

The basement and the ground floor of the building had

drums with 200 litres of oil each,

and at least 12 oil drums burst in

the presence of the firefighters.

"We strategised and decided to begin cooling of the three

tankers first," said Sharma.

Initially, five fire tenders were

deployed. With the fire getting

worse, by 7 pm at least 26 fire ten

ders were part of the mission.

Garg said that the cause of the fir

is yet to be determined. Additional DCP (West) said:

"Investigation so far has revealed

that the buildings are used to

store lubricant oil. A case under

IPC section 285 (negligent con

duct with respect to fire) against

unknown persons has been regis

tered at Punjabi Bagh police sta

tion." The godown owner is be

ing questioned, police said.



New bylaws are expected to be notified by next week

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

HEFTY FINES have been proposed for non-recyclable plastic users under new bylaws drafted for controlling plastic waste in Delhi, which are expected to be notified by next week. Principal Secretary of Urban Development Manisha Saxena has said.

Fines ranging from Rs 50,000 for bulk users to Rs 2,000 for smaller businesses have been recommended in the new laws. Consumers found accepting single-use plastic products could also be fined.

An environment official said single-use plastic products would be identified under the bylaws and penalties imposed on those found using them.

Local bodies and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee

would be executing the laws, with the environment department acting as a regulatory body,

the official said.

"These are products that are unnecessary and everyday work

can continue without them as well. They would be phased out as a ban would be imposed on them the same day the bylaws are notified," the environment official said.

"The rules are very comprehensive and clearly define the responsibility of each person and authority with regard to penal provision," the official said.

As per the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016, local bodies were to seek assistance of producers that use plastic and set up a management system within one year from March. Local bodies were also to frame bylaws incorporating the provision for these rules.

"Other states already have such bylaws in place and are imposing fines. In Delhi, it has faced a severe delay due to some rea-

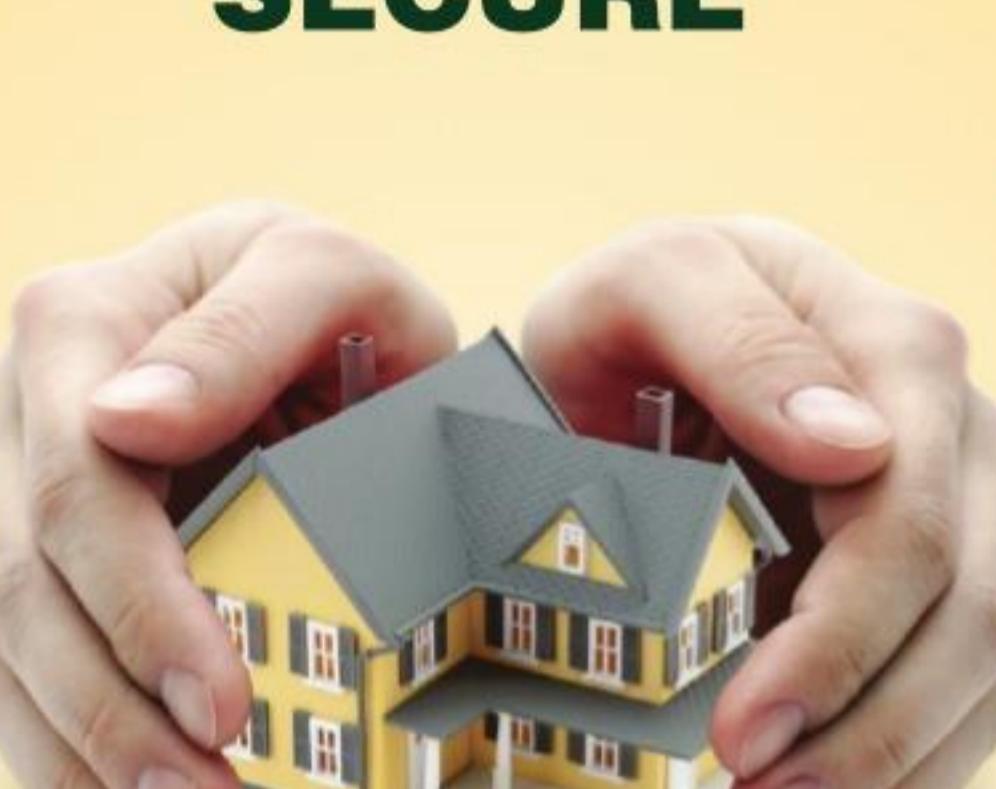
sons," the environment official said.

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According to the Central Pollution Control Board's estimates, the city produced more than 2.30 lakh tons of plastic in 2016-17. This includes single-use, or disposable, plastic waste which often cannot be recycled and ends up choking landfill sites in the city.

In 2017, the National Green Tribunal had banned plastic bags of less than 50 microns and disposable plastic across Delhi.

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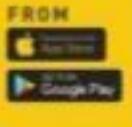
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10 हफ्ते . 10 बजे . 10 मिनट.

It's Sunday today.
I will inspect my
house at 10 am.
I hope you do it too!

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



Dear Delhiites,

Today at 10 o'clock, we have to inspect our homes to check if clean water has accumulated anywhere. We have to ensure that clean water has not collected inside flowerpots, coolers, vases, or anywhere inside or outside our house. If clean water has accumulated, we need to pour it out, change it, or add petrol or oil to it. We should inspect our homes every Sunday at 10 am for the next 10 weeks to save our family from Dengue and Chikungunya. After inspecting your house, do take a selfie and WhatsApp it to 8287972050

दिल्ली कर दिखाएगी

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

BRIEFLY

Man stabbed to death, 3 minors held

New Delhi: A 19-year-old man was stabbed to death, allegedly by his three juvenile friends, over personal enmity in Eastern range, police said. All three accused have been apprehended and sent to a correction home.

Woman jumps in front of Metro train

New Delhi: A 26-year-old woman committed suicide by jumping in front of an oncoming train at the Model Town Metro station Saturday. Police officials said that services on the Delhi Metro's Yellow Line were briefly disrupted.

Teen's body found in canal

New Delhi: The body of an 18-year-old was retrieved from a canal in Faridabad, a day after he allegedly committed suicide by jumping into a stream in South East Delhi's Jaitpur. Police said that a 16-year-old girl, too, jumped with him, but was rescued.

FIR against 2 women for 'child lifting'

New Delhi: A case of kidnapping was filed against two women in South East Delhi's Okhla Industrial area after they allegedly tried to flee with a child Friday. The women were allegedly beaten up by residents who raised an alarm when the father of the child saw them, said police. DCP (South East) Chinmoy Biswas said: "An FIR has been filed."

'FINAL RESULTS WILL BE WITHHELD'

Counting delayed, Left panel leads JNU student union polls

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

AT AROUND 11 pm, when 550 out of the 5,762 votes polled in the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) polls had been counted, the United Left Panel was leading comfortably in all four posts.

For the post of President, AISA's Aishe Ghosh was leading with 266 votes ahead of Ambedkarite BAPSA's Jitendra Suna who got 108 votes. At the post of Vice-President, Secretary and Joint Secretary too, Left candidates Saket Moon, Satish Chandra Yadav and Mohd Danish were ahead by 271, 122 and 244 votes respectively.

While BAPSA-Fraternity alliance was on second position in President and Secretary – the only two seats they are contesting – the ABVP was on the second spot in the positions of Vice-President and Joint Secretary.

The election process was



At the campus on Saturday. Praveen Khanna

thrown into disarray following the Delhi High Court order asking for a stay on the declaration of the poll results – the counting of votes, which was to begin at 9 pm Friday, finally began at 3 pm Saturday, EC officials said.

A part of the delay was due to the deadlock between the Election Committee (EC), student organisations and the administration. The problem continued through the day.

In JNU, elections are held on ballot papers, and voting trends are announced by the EC after the

counting of every few hundred votes. The EC decided Saturday that while the final result will not be announced, voting trends will continue to be announced until a certain point.

"After several meetings with all student organisations, and an internal meeting of EC officials, it was decided that counting agents of the parties will have to sign an undertaking that they will not make public the last 150 votes for the central panel seats, and the last bundle of votes (around 50) for the Councillor

and the last 50 votes for the

seats," said an EC official, adding that the cumulative result at the end would also not be announced.

The tussle between the administration and students began late last night, when the EC, after deliberations, decided to begin counting at midnight.

CEC Shashank Patel said, "The counting process which was started on September 6 at 11:55 pm, had to be put on hold because of a deadlock situation between the students' community decision about not following the GRC recommendations of undertaking to be given by counting agents, and also in regard to the declaration of final results."

"Because a consensus could not be reached after so many hours, Election Committee decided to resume the counting process with declaration of trends but the final result will be withheld," he added.

GRC chairperson Umesh Kadam did not respond to calls and texts seeking a comment.

In DUSU manifesto, ABVP hopes to tap into Article 370, AISA into fake degree

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

THE AKHIL Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the Left-wing All India Students' Association (AISA) Saturday released their manifestos for the upcoming Delhi University Students' Union polls, to be held on September 12.

ABVP, which is currently in power, is focusing on "five Ps" – *parivar* (campus), which includes construction of new hostels and establishment of East and West campuses; *paryakram* (curriculum), which includes student representation in the DU Academic

Council, remedial classes for SC, ST, OBC, and EWS students and facilitating national integration under Centre's Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat program; *pravesh* (admission), which includes a centralised hostel admission form and 'one course one fee' across different colleges; *pareeksha* (examination) involving supplementary examination for final-year students across all undergraduate and postgraduate courses and extra exam time for specially abled students; and *parinam* (result), which will ensure pre-fixed dates for declaration of exam results.

ABVP is also hoping to gain from the Centre's decision to re-

move Article 370 in Kashmir. Yogit Rathi, ABVP's candidate for the post of Secretary, said, "ABVP's protracted fight that began in 1992 for abrogation of the discriminatory provisions of Article 370 culminated in their revocation on August 5. ABVP restates its commitment towards protecting as well as expanding the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression, but solemnly warns against its abuse".

On the other hand, AISA's campaign is, to a large extent, built on removing ABVP from campus. It is also raking up the issue of Ankiv Baisoya's degree fiasco, alleging that the ABVP hands out tickets to people with fake de-

grees. "For the last few years, the ABVP has spread terror on campuses and indulged in violence... From threatening professors in the syllabus-making committee to illegally setting up the statue of Savarkar in Arts Faculty, the ABVP has resorted to unprecedented violence on students," the AISA said.

Damini Kain, their presidential candidate, said DUSU members had "fought against us (students) rather than for us". On its agenda are Metro concessional passes, elections by ballot paper, hostels for all, among other things. AISA vice-president candidate Aftab Alam said, "Our focus will be on removing PG mafia and constructing hostels for all."

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4th CONCLAVE

North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA)

9th September, 2019 | Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati

Published by North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA)

Manager of Thai eatery held in raid by Excise Dept

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7



JNU had asked Romila Thapar for her CV

annually". It does not talk of reviewing the title of those not active at the university.

■ Cambridge University, at rank 7, makes every retiring professor an Emeritus Professor: "A Professor or Reader who retires after the age of sixty shall become an Emeritus Professor or Emeritus Reader, as the case may be, without statutory duties or powers".

■ Stanford University, at rank 2, also doesn't mention anything about a review. "Faculty members who become official University retirees receive the emeritus or emerita title authorised by the Board of Trustees, and Academic Council members become Senior Members of the Academic Council with privileges of the floor and of service on committees, but without the right to vote or hold office."

■ Oxford University, at rank 4, also simply states that the title is bestowed on "any person who has retired over the age of 60 from a professorship, including a personal or titular professorship" and "any person who has retired from a professorship and on whom the title has been conferred by resolution of Council".

■ The University of Chicago, at rank 10, also has no mention of a review period. "Faculty may retire at age fifty-five. A Faculty member who retires from a position on indefinite tenure or who retires from a Faculty position after twenty years shall be designated a Member Emeritus of the faculty," the university's rules state.

JNU Registrar Pramod Kumar said, "In JNU, the number of Emeritus Professors in every school is lopsided. Even within the school, some centres have more Emeritus professors. We wanted to re-evaluate how many people should get it, and for how long."

Four wanted men arrested

Ghaziabad: Four wanted men carrying a reward of Rs 25,000 each were arrested by police following shootouts in three separate incidents since Friday evening. All the four arrested men and two policemen suffered gunshot injuries in the incidents.

In one of the incidents near Hindon canal in Vasundhara colony Saturday, police intercepted three suspects. The pillion riders fired on policemen, who retaliated. Two out of the three suspects received gunshot injuries and were arrested. PTI

JAVADEKAR, PURI, RAI HOLD CONSULTATIONS

In meetings with BJP leaders, workers push for GST cut

Other suggestions include regularisation of unauthorised colonies, land pooling

ABHINAV RAJPUT

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7



The BJP has appointed Union Minister Prakash Javadekar as the in-charge for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, along with ministers Hardeep Singh Puri and Nityanand Rai

DELHI BJP workers, in their meetings with Union ministers Prakash Javadekar, Hardeep Singh Puri and Nityanand Rai, who are overseeing Assembly poll preparation in the capital, have suggested that senior leaders reduce GST on some items, extend land-pooling policy to villages in green belts, and expedite the process of giving legal status to unauthorised colonies.

A senior BJP leader said workers in the West district emphasised on extension of the land-pooling policy, under which owners or groups of owners can pool land parcels of any size for development. Workers in another district-level meeting, on the other hand, suggested a decrease in GST on some items under the 18% tax slab.

Several workers also said regularisation of unauthorised colonies could be a game changer for the party in the elections. Puri, the Union Urban Affairs Minister, had earlier announced the Centre's plan to confer ownership rights to residents of unauthorised colonies

in Delhi. The issue may be brought to the Cabinet soon.

Delhi BJP general secretary Rajesh Bhata said the three leaders are taking meetings in groups, and at least seven of the 14 districts have been covered. He said that besides feedback, the sessions are meant to send out a message that the party respects workers. District presidents, councillors, maulana presidents and officer bearers attend these meetings.

Senior leaders present at the meet said Javadekar asked the workers to take help from Puri and Rai to get their problems solved.

The Delhi BJP, which won all seven seats in the Lok Sabha polls, faces a harder task in the Assembly elections, where it will take on the Aam Aadmi Party.

Recently, senior leadership of the party had told its state unit not to criticise various "freebies" being doled by AAP in the run-up to the polls, and to speak in "one voice" when it came to issues concerning the capital. Javadekar has till now met with Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, state general secretary organisation Siddharthan and MPs from the state.

Protest near CM residence

Members of BJP's youth wing, the Bharatiya Janta Yuva Morcha, Saturday staged a protest near Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence demanding that the Delhi government give prosecution sanction in the 2016 JNU sedition case. The activists tried to move past a barricade near Kejriwal's Flagstaff Road residence, but were stopped by police and taken to a nearby police station, from where they were released later. They also raised slogans against the Delhi government and tore down posters and banners outside the Chief Minister's residence.

As reported by *The Indian Express*, the Delhi government is set to turn down a request for sanction to prosecute former JNU Students' Union president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in a 2016 sedition case.

Kejriwal had Friday said the Delhi government has not yet taken any decision on the prosecution sanction against Kumar and others. He added that the home department will take an appropriate decision after considering all facts.



SOME SHELTER

A fresh spell of moderate rain drenched the capital Saturday, providing much-needed relief from the sultry weather. An IMD official said patchy rains would continue till September 20, but humidity levels will remain high. *Praveen Khanna*

1 year on, key accused in Paytm case still at large

12 men held for duping over 225

AMIL BHATNAGAR

NOIDA, SEPTEMBER 7

Police, for the past year, have struggled to gather evidence against Kolkatta resident Rohit Chomal, an NGO owner who allegedly made extortion calls to Paytm founder Vijay Sharma and his brother Ajay

from the Allahabad High Court, which stated police needed "sufficient evidence" to arrest him.

"The investigation is over and the charges are being framed. The case rests with the prosecution and we will provide every cooperation as and when required during trial. A chargesheet had been submitted in December which elaborates the findings of the police against the accused, including Rohit Chomal," said Vaibhav Krishna, SSP (Gautam Budh Nagar).

The then SSP (Gautam Budh Nagar) Ajay Pal Sharma had earlier said it had come to light during investigation that Chomal was Devendra's friend. "He was hired after being assured of 20% of the extortion amount of Rs 10 crore... the phone numbers were provided to him by Devendra, who also visited Kolkata several times," the SSP said.

According to officers, Vijay's elder brother Ajay Shekhar Sharma had already paid the accused Rs 69 lakh. "Ajay named four accused in his complaint and alleged Chomal made the extor-

tion calls from his phone. He allegedly made the first call to Ajay on September 20, and then a WhatsApp call to his brother

Devendra Jain were arrested on October 23, after a complaint was filed by Ajay alleging personal data theft and extortion at Sector 20 police station. They were arrested for allegedly trying to extort Rs 10 crore from Vijay.

Police claimed that the data, which was in the possession of Chomal, included passwords, bank details and company information. After arresting the trio, police had conducted several raids in Kolkata to nab him, but he remained untraced. He then obtained a stay order on his arrest

from the Allahabad High Court, which stated police needed "sufficient evidence" to arrest him.

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The accused cheated the people of Rs 13 crore in two years, said police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

TWELVE MEN were arrested for allegedly duping over 200 people by making them invest in bogus insurance plans and benefits. Police said they had allegedly cheated around 225 people of Rs 13 crore in the last two years.

Police said the accused include Prabhat Singh, Rupesh, Jitender, Robin Mathew, Dalip Singh, Vishal, Ranjan Garg, Vicky Dhawan, Raj Kumar, Ram Gopal, Jitender Singh and Kanhaiya Rajput.

Police said a 63-year-old retired bank manager lodged a complaint on July 26, and alleged that the accused had cheated him of more than Rs 20 lakh by inducing him to invest in various insurance plans. The complainant had deposited the amount in the various accounts from April 20, 2018, to May 21, 2019.

But when he asked for the money in May, the accused avoided him and demanded more investments, after which he reported the matter to police.

During investigation, police analysed the alleged account statements, and found that over Rs 13 crore was transferred in these fake accounts from over 225 people across the country.

"Prabhat was arrested while he was withdrawing money from one of the accounts. On his instance, the other ten accused were arrested from Gurgaon and Faridabad," said SD Mishra, DCP (Rohini).

Explaining their modus operandi, police said they first opened bank accounts using fake names and addresses and passed the details to their associates, who were running the fake call centres.

"The 'call centre' employees would contact the people and convince them to invest in their fake investment plans. When they would transfer the money into their bank accounts, the call centre owners would pass the information to their associates, who later withdrew the funds and functions". She also demanded that government schools in all sectors of Gurgaon and four district-level

Woman 'sexually assaulted at gunpoint'

New Delhi: A 22-year-old man was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman at gunpoint, along with a friend in Rohini, said police. The accused, Kashim, is a resident of Kirari Suleman Nagar area, and was arrested Thursday. The other accused is absconding.

Police said the 20-year-old woman had filed a complaint on July 26 at Raj Park police station, alleging she was raped by two persons. "She alleged Kashim invited her to his birthday party at his flat, where the other accused was waiting. They allegedly sexually assaulted her at gunpoint," a senior police officer said.

Kashim was allegedly pressuring the woman to withdraw the complaint, said police, adding that he threatened to kill her if she didn't. He had been absconding since police registered an FIR against him.

"During questioning, Kashim said he has two previous cases against him. He was out on bail when he allegedly raped the woman. He had been absconding ever since," said DCP (Rohini) SD Mishra. A country-made pistol and two live cartridges were recovered from the accused, he added. ENS

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"Every year, groundwater level in Gurgaon drops by 2 metres... Rainwater harvesting is key," said Khushpar Dahiya, a representative of the Gurgaon Water Forum. Kalpana Viswanath from Safety Pin NGO demanded more walkable spaces with adequate lighting and better public transport with last-mile connectivity to ensure safe mobility of women.

Shubhra Puri from Gurgaon First NGO emphasised on a decentralised system of waste management.

Ishraq Thameem, a former corporate sector professional, highlighted that there was a lack of places of worship for minority communities.

Nisha Singh, a city councillor, said that "over the last five years, the MCG has been weakened by taking away the funds and functions". She also demanded that government schools in all sectors of Gurgaon and four district-level

hospitals be set up, along with community health centres.

Highlighting environmental degradation and its link to worsening water and air, the group demanded that the Aravalis be declared protected under the Punjab Land Protection Act, to stop construction work there. "If Aravalis suffer degradation, the city will become uninhabitable," said Art Jaiman, a former journalist.

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hospitals be set up, along with community health centres.

Highlighting environmental degradation and its link to worsening water and air, the group demanded that the Aravalis be declared protected under the Punjab Land Protection Act, to stop construction work there. "If Aravalis suffer degradation, the city will become uninhabitable," said Art Jaiman, a former journalist.

"Every year, groundwater level in Gurgaon drops by 2 metres... Rainwater harvesting is key," said Khushpar Dahiya, a representative of the Gurgaon Water Forum. Kalpana Viswanath from Safety Pin NGO demanded more walkable spaces with adequate lighting and better public transport with last-mile connectivity to ensure safe mobility of women.

Shubhra Puri from Gurgaon First NGO emphasised on a decentralised system of waste management.

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CHANDRAYAAN-2

There will be a new dawn, brighter tomorrow, says PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 7



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with ISRO scientists after communication with the Vikram lander was lost, in Bengaluru. PTI

cesses" and said a few moments of disappointment could not push its flight "out of trajectory", and that nothing could stop India from realising its dreams in the 21st century.

Later in the day, the PM repeated his observations in Aurangabad in Maharashtra.

The unwavering dedication and determination displayed by ISRO scientists was an attribute that leads and makes the nation great, he said, adding that India's space scientists were more determined than ever to pursue their mission of landing a spacecraft on the Moon.

"All of us know about Chandrayaan. Our scientists had set a huge goal. They made every effort, and worked relentlessly for years. They gave their best. But some problem developed... Yesterday night and today morning, I was with our scientists at ISRO. They had become emotional. But they were also more determined. Ready to take up the challenge with renewed energy and determination, taking lessons from what happened," Modi said.

Modi was on a day's visit to Mumbai and Aurangabad where he inaugurated Metro and AURIC (Aurangabad Industrial City) projects respectively.

WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post in its headline 'India's first attempt to land on the moon appears to have failed' said the mission had been a source of "immense national pride". "Social media erupted in support of the space agency and its scientists despite the setback..." it said. "One of the successes of India's space program has been its cost-effectiveness. Chandrayaan-2 cost \$141 million, a small fraction of what the United States spent on its historic Apollo moon mission," the report said.

BBC

The BBC wrote the mission had made global headlines because it was "so cheap". "The budget for Avengers: Endgame, for instance, was more than double at an estimated USD 356 million. But this isn't the first time ISRO has been hailed for its thrift. Its 2014 Mars mission cost USD 74 million, a tenth of the budget for the American Maven orbiter," it said.

AL JAZEERA

Under the headline 'India's space hopes dashed for now with loss of lunar lander', Al Jazeera's article read, "The moment India had waited years for...arrived as a time of silence and bitter disappointment". The article also noted the low-cost budget of the project, stating, "This achievement on the moon would have been even more astonishing because after a series of very expensive setbacks – including an aborted initial launch."

LE MONDE

French daily *Le Monde* mentioned the success rate of soft landing on the moon. It said, "so far, scientists point out, only 45 per cent of missions aimed at alleviating have been successful". It started its article with words "A broken dream" and said that the Indian newspapers "were quick to titillate their websites, after announcing the worse scenario that could expect the Indian Space Research Organisation".

THE GUARDIAN

"The mission, which comes amid a renewed global interest in moon exploration, was watched closely by scientists around," stated *The Guardian*'s article. It further said that the mission was the "most complex and ambitious space project that India has embarked upon" so far.

With PTI inputs

'Your work is not in vain... no need to lose heart': Leaders laud ISRO scientists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

LEADERS ACROSS the political divide have lauded the efforts of ISRO scientists over the Chandrayaan-2 mission which faltered in the last leg.

Hailing the team of scientists and researchers at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), interim Congress president Sonia Gandhi said the mission has laid the foundation for achieving greater feats and the entire country awaits in anticipation for traversing the next frontier of space. "We owe a great debt to ISRO and the brilliant men and women who staff it. Their hard work and dedication has earned India a place in the league of space-faring nations and have inspired generations to reach for the stars," she said.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "Congratulations to the team at

ISRO for their incredible work on the Chandrayaan 2 Moon Mission. Your passion & dedication is an inspiration to every Indian. Your work is not in vain. It has laid the foundation for many more path breaking & ambitious Indian space missions."

Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted, "We are proud of our scientists. The @isro team worked hard for #Chandrayaan2. A befitting tribute to our founding fathers who envisioned India's place in the league of scientifically advanced nations far ahead of their times. A testimony to the scientific temper they ingrained in us, and their unmatched caliber and dedication. My sincere gratitude and congratulations to @isro. We are all with you. May you continue to make us proud!"

Banerjee's Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal urged scientists not to lose heart. "We are proud of our scientists. They have created history. No need to lose heart.

Our scientists have done a great job. Jai Hind!" he said.

DMK president M K Stalin tweeted, "Thank You Team @isro for inspiring a billion people to look towards outer space and place our faith in the power of science and technology. We are proud of our scientists for taking us farther than before #Chandrayaan2."

CMP general secretary Sitaram Yechury tweeted, "The history of our scientific milestones has shown us how the fight and struggle has been continuous. Bravo that ISRO and our scientists got us so far. We are confident that the next steps will be more satisfying."

Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar said in an official release, "We are quite confident that our scientists will keep their energy and enthusiasm and will move ahead to achieve our goal. Information gathered from Chandrayaan-2 mission will help future scientific endeavors."

Just a coincidence, not misfortune: President

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

APPRECIATING ISRO'S achievements, the President on Saturday lauded the effort of the scientists and expressed hope that India will be successful in its next Moon mission.

"Hum honge kamayab, mann me hai vishwas, poora hai vishwas, hum honge kamyaab ek din... We covered 3.84 lakh-km journey successfully, only 2.1 km were left. The distance left is negligible on such a huge scale. It's such a huge achievement. It was just a coincidence and not misfortune," President Ram Nath Kovind said.

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu said the entire country is proud of ISRO's mission and extended his best wishes for the space agency's future endeavours. "There is nothing to despair. ISRO only lost communication with the Lander & not the hopes of 1.3 billion Indians," Naidu's secretariat tweeted.



President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu

The Vice-President also said the orbiter with its payloads is performing its mission. "I salute @isro scientists, engineers & everyone else associated with Chandrayaan-2 for their hard work & dedication in trying to conquer new frontiers in space exploration," he tweeted.

G Madhavan Nair, the former ISRO chairman during whose tenure Chandrayaan-1 was launched a decade ago, said the mission has achieved 95 per cent of its objectives despite the lander not touching down.

The men and women behind India's Mission Moon

From developing launch rockets to configuring and assembling spacecraft systems, they are among those who played a key role in the project

LAUNCH VEHICLE TEAM

S SOMANATH,
DIRECTOR, VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE

Somanath is one of the key rocket scientists behind development of ISRO's heaviest rocket, GSLV Mk III, which launched Chandrayaan-2, and is being geared for launch of the first Indian human space mission, the Gaganyaan mission, around 2022. After Chandrayaan-2 mission experienced a hiccup on July 15 this year, when the launch was aborted due to a technical glitch, Somanath's team put the GSLV Mk III back on track in a week for launch on July 22.

Somanath has also been involved in development of throttle-able engines for ISRO's space programme, which allows it to develop new rockets. The throttle-able engine technology was present on Chandrayaan-2's Vikram lander – it was key to reducing the lander's velocity before landing on the Moon. Somanath was also the project director for a December 2014 GSLV Mk III development mission where a Crew Module Atmospheric Re-Entry

Experiment – a precursor to the human space flight – was successfully demonstrated.

An ISRO veteran, with over 30 years of service, Somanath has a Masters' degree in aerospace engineering from the IISc.

Vanitha won the best woman scientist award from the Astronautical Society of India in 2006 and was featured by international science journal *Nature* among its list of scientists to watch out for in 2019.

V NARAYANAN,
DIRECTOR, LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE

Shortly after GSLV Mk III rocket successfully put Chandrayaan-2 space-

craft in its desired orbit in space on July 22, ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LWSC) put out a message congratulating its scientists for the the successful launch. "L10 and C25 stages delivered by LPSC performed brilliantly during the launch," the message said, in a reference to the performance of the twin L10 or liquid fuel Vikas engines and the C25 cryogenic engine – both designed and developed by LPSC. The centre's director, Narayanan, is one of the foremost experts on cryogenic propulsion technologies – a technology denied to India in the past – and is a former project director for the C25 cryogenic project.

SPACECRAFT TEAM



M VANITHA,
PROJECT DIRECTOR,
CHANDRAYAAN-2

She is the first woman to be a project director for an ISRO planetary mission. The communications engineer, who took over as the project director for Chandrayaan-2 around 20 months ago, has been a single-point authority for getting the whole system configured, reviewed, implemented, assembled and guided to the landing. A longstanding member of the digital systems group at ISRO's U R Rao Satellite Centre (formerly ISRO Satellite Centre), she served as associate director for Chandrayaan-2 mission before being appointed as the project director.

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RITU KARIDHAL,
MISSION DIRECTOR,
CHANDRAYAAN-2

An aerospace engineer, Karidhal has been responsible for guiding Chandrayaan-2 space-craft through its space journey. She held overall responsibility for



K SIVAN, CHAIRMAN, ISRO

A month before the launch of Chandrayaan-2 mission, the phlegmatic rocket scientist from Tamil Nadu, did not mince words when he said that the final descent towards the surface of the Moon by the Vikram lander would be among the most terrifying moments in ISRO's history. Since taking over as chairman in 2018, Sivan, 62, has driven the Chandrayaan-2 mission to realisation

despite multiple delays, including technical problems with the Vikram lander. The ISRO veteran has spent over 36 years in the organisation and served in the past as director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre and the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre – the primary centres for development of rocket technologies for the space agency.

His innovations to mission design in ISRO's workhorse and highly consistent PSLV rocket programme has been a bedrock for the development of bigger rockets such as GSLV Mk II and III. "He is the chief architect of 6D trajectory simulation software, SITARA, the backbone of real-time and non-real-time trajectory simulations of all ISRO launch vehicles. He was responsible for commissioning world-class simulation facility in ISRO for mission synthesis and analysis, which is used for mission design..." says Sivan's ISRO profile.

A PhD in aerospace from IIT Bombay, Sivan has a Masters in aerospace from IISc and is an aeronautics engineering graduate from IIT Madras.

insertion of the spacecraft into the lunar orbit, and for its final descent on Moon. She was an operations director, assisting mission director V Kesava Raju for ISRO's Mars mission in 2013-14.

Karidhal has a Masters degree in aerospace engineering from IISc and comes from Lucknow.

P KUNHIKRISHNAN, DIRECTOR, U RAO SATELLITE CENTRE

The satellite centre played a central role in

development of the components of Chandrayaan-2 space-craft – the orbiter, the Vikram lander, and the Pragyan rover. While early work on the space-craft began when

Chandrayaan-1 project director M Annadurai headed the centre, the project was pushed to realisation under Kunhi Krishnan. With a Russian collaboration to build the lander and

rover falling through, it was left to the satellite centre to develop the lander and the rover from scratch.

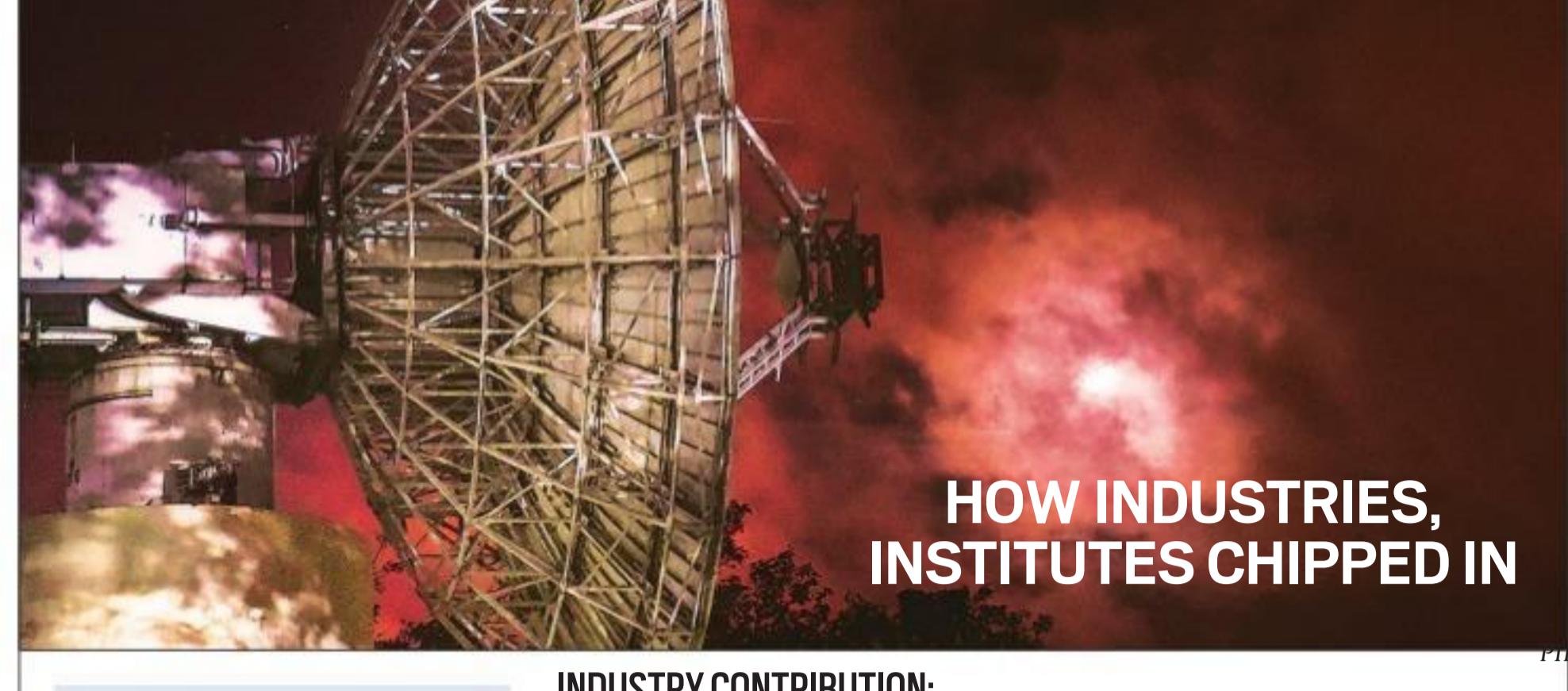
An ISRO veteran, Kunhi Krishnan is a former director of its PSLV rocket programme and was responsible for carrying out 13 successive, flawless PSLV missions between 2010 and 2015, including the Mars Orbiter Mission in 2013.

V V SRINIVASAN,
DIRECTOR, ISRO TELEMETRY, TRACKING AND COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)

Since the launch of Chandrayaan-2, health, performance and trajectory of the spacecraft was monitored and controlled from a Mission Operations Centre of ISTRAC in Bengaluru, on the basis of signals sent between Chandrayaan-2 and high-end end receivers located at ISTRAC's Indian Deep Space Network ground station facility outside the city. ISTRAC was responsible for all communication with Chandrayaan-2's lander and rover once lowered to the Moon's surface.

Srinivasan has worked as a communications engineer for several years at ISRO's satellite centre. He also played a key role in development of a 32-metre Deep Space Network terminal for Chandrayaan-1 mission.

COMPILED BY JOHNSON TA



HOW INDUSTRIES, INSTITUTES CHIPPED IN

INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTION:

LAUNCH VEHICLE: Over 500 industries

SPACECRAFT: Over 120 industries

CHANDRAYAAN-2 SPACECRAFT COST: Rs 603 cr (60% spent on industry)

GSLV MK-III ROCKET COST: Rs 375 cr (80% spent on industry)

flight hardware, sub-systems and assemblies for the mission. Manufactured "head end, middle and nozzle end segments" of GSLV Mk III's S200 solid boosters, which powered the rocket at the time of the launch.

ANANTH TECHNOLOGIES LTD (HYDERABAD): Manufactured the star sensors on the spacecraft; has long association with ISRO

TWAC PVT LTD (DHARWAD): Started by Seth Walchand Heerachand, founder of HAL in the 1960s; associated with ISRO for over four decades. Made pressure gauges for the GSLV Mk III rocket

CENTRAL TOOL ROOM AND TRAINING CENTRE (BHUBANESWAR, PSU): Made 22 types of valves for fuel injection for cryogenic engine of GSLV Mk III rocket and parts for the lander and rover

BHARAT HEAVY ELECTRICALS LTD: Made lithium ion batteries based on technology transferred to the firm by ISRO. The lithium ion batteries are used as power sources on the spacecraft and launch vehicle.

KERALA MINERALS AND METALS LTD (PSU): A titanium sponge plant at KMML produces rare titanium sponge needed for GSLV Mk III rocket

8 GOVT & POLITICS

'WON'T TALK ABOUT FEELERS BUT IT IS VIABLE'
RJD leader: Can accept Nitish as Grand Alliance leader if he quits NDA

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 7

RJD NATIONAL vice-president Shivanand Tewary on Saturday said his party "would not have any problem" in accepting Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) national president Nitish Kumar as leader of the Grand Alliance if the Bihar CM decided to join them again. Tewary said though there had been no such feelers, one could see the JD(U) chief being under tremendous pressure over the party's differences with BJP over instant triple talaq and scrapping of special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370.

Tewary said though he would not talk about "feelers", the reunion of RJD and JD(U) looked "viable". "If Nitish would take any stand against communalism and if we do not support him, we will be finished," said the senior RJD leader.

The senior RJD leader said though party leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav was firmly in control of the party after a brief absence from politics after the Lok Sabha elections, he believed that the RJD must support Nitish if he decided to part ways with NDA again. "If Nitish takes a stand (of quitting NDA) and we do not support him, in that case we would be branded as BJP agent," he said. Asked if the RJD could accept Nitish on the same terms as it did before 2015 Assembly polls, Tewary said, "Why not?"

It is the second time in the last

EXPLAINED

Win-win proposal for JD(U), RJD

SHIVANAND TEWARY, a socialist leader and former Rajya Sabha MP, has been a senior leader to both Lalu Prasad and Nitish Kumar and has followed their politics very closely. He believes Lalu and Nitish should come together since their ideological position is the same. Nitish's growing discomfort with the BJP leaves space for Nitish and Lalu to join hands again, especially if the BJP tries to corner JD(U) over seat-sharing arrangements before 2020 Assembly polls.

For the RJD, too, it will be a much-needed boost following its drubbing in the Lok Sabha elections.

two months that the senior RJD leader has made such remarks even though there are no direct feelers from the JD(U). "I have known Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad from their formative years. I worked with both of them and had parted ways with Lalu for Nitish in 1993 when Samata Party was formed... I firmly believe Nitish Kumar is a very image conscious leader. He is very conscious of his secular credentials," said Tewary.

Asked about Bihar Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav's aversion to Nitish Kumar and his party already declaring him as the CM nominee for 2020 Assembly polls, Tewary said, "I do not speak anything without basis. There could be some people on either side who would not like the idea but there are many com-

mon grounds between RJD and JD(U) and the cadres if both parties might be in agreement. If Lalu Prasad and Nitish Kumar come together again, they would again be formidable forces. We are on same page with Nitish on his secular credentials and stand on instant triple talaq and Jammu and Kashmir."

However, JD(U) national spokesperson KCTyagi said, "We are very much comfortable with NDA. On certain issues when we differed, we have aired our differences. As a socialist unit, we have not deviated from our ideology and commitment towards zero tolerance against crime, corruption and communalism. RJD's desperation stems from the fact that people have rejected caste and clan politics in last Lok Sabha elections."

At the event, the PM gave an account of his government's accomplishments in the first 100 days of its second term. Among them, he listed the triple talaq issue and the abrogation of Section 370 that revoked the special status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"As we have set a target to become a \$5 trillion economy in the next five years, we will have to develop our cities in sync with the 21st-century world. For this, we will have to develop systems to ensure mobility, connectivity, productivity, safety and sustainability," he said at an event held at Jio World Centre in the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC).

"Our intent is to spend Rs 100 lakh crore to develop infrastructure across the country. Along with Mumbai, we also want to develop other cities," he added.

Modi inaugurated Metro 2A and a mock coach for Metro 7, manufactured by Bharat Earth Movers limited (BEML), as a part of the government's 'Make in India' initiative.

On his maiden visit to Mumbai after his re-election, the PM visited a 96-year-old Ganesh pandal at Lokmanya Seva Sangh at Vile Parle.

He also inaugurated the 10,000-acre Aurangabad Industrial City (AURIC), the country's first greenfield industrial smart city and part of the upcoming Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor. AURIC envisages global in-

vestments worth Rs 70,000 crore in the next 10 years and is likely to generate three lakh jobs.

The PM unveiled the state-of-the-art Auric Hall, a six-storey building that will be the monitoring and administrative nerve centre for the smart city and launched the Auric chatbot that will help anyone get their problems addressed by the city administration.

While addressing a meet of empowered women involved in self-help groups, the PM announced that under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the Centre will invest Rs 3.5 lakh crore to tackle the problem of drinking water in the next five years. The scheme aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis described AURIC as a "game changer" for Marathwada.



PM Narendra Modi with Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, CM Devendra Fadnavis and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray at the Metro inauguration in Mumbai. Pradip Das

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UNVEILED IN MAHARASHTRA

Have to develop cities in sync with 21st century world: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 7

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated and laid the foundation of infrastructure projects worth thousands of crores in Mumbai.

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Selja takes charge of Haryana Cong, will not contest polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 6

HARYANA CONGRESS'S newly appointed president Kumari Selja on Saturday sought to present a united face of the faction-ridden party, which she said, will fight the Assembly polls collectively by moving in "fast-forward mode". Selja said she will not contest the state election.

"Elections are near. We need to enter jointly in the electoral field. Due to paucity of time our challenges have increased. We will collectively fight the assembly polls by moving in fast forward mode. I will, however, not contest the election," Selja said after formally taking charge as the state party chief here.

Addressing the media, Selja admitted that she got the responsibility a "little late", but "we accept the challenge". She ruled out any alliance for the polls that are likely to be held in October.

Former state party president Ashok Tanwar and former Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader Kiran Chaudhary did not attend the event.

Selja, however, said that "all are part of party and will work collectively in the coming days".

Haryana Congress in-charge and party general secretary Ghulam Nabi Azad, who was present, too downplayed the absence of the two key party leaders. "They could not have come because of some reason," Azad told reporters, adding "It (change in organisation) is a continuous process. Change is there always in organisation."

Azad, however, praised both Tanwar and Chaudhary for their contributions in strengthening the party. "The party felt the responsibility should be given to those who have long experience in administration and organisation. But it does not mean that the former CLP leader or the former state unit president were weak leaders," he added.

In a bid to end factionalism in Haryana, the Congress earlier this week named Selja as state party chief and appointed former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda head of the election management committee. Congress president Sonia Gandhi also appointed Hooda as the CLP leader, and by virtue of that Leader of Opposition in the Assembly.

Hooda was present when Selja, a four-time Lok Sabha MP and currently member of Rajya Sabha, took charge.



Kumari Selja, Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Ghulam Nabi Azad at Congress headquarters in Chandigarh. Express

Ex-CM responding to treatment: Hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 7

FORMER BENGAL chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, who was admitted to a Kolkata hospital on Friday night, is recovering and responding to the treatment well, said doctors. Bhattacharjee is suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary

disease, diabetes and multiple cardiac ailments.

"He (Bhattacharjee) was admitted yesterday at 8.40 pm with severe shortness of breath with low oxygen saturation and high carbon-dioxide levels in blood. The cause has been diagnosed as Acute Exacerbation of COPD with Bilateral Pneumonitis and Anaemia", read a statement by Woodlands Multispeciality

Hospital. A seven-member medical team has been formed. "He is under close monitoring in the intensive care unit under an expert medical team," said a senior official of Woodlands.

Several politicians, including CPM leaders Surjya Kanta Mishra, Rabin Deb and Md Salim as well as Congress leader Pradip Bhattacharya and BJP MP Locket Chatterjee visited Bhattacharjee.

No ambiguity on Sena-BJP alliance returning to power, says Uddhav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 7

SIGNALLING THE Shiv Sena's willingness to continue the alliance with BJP for the 288 seats in the upcoming Assembly elections, party chief

Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday said there was no ambiguity that the saffron allies would return to power in the state post polls.

"There is no ambiguity about the Sena-BJP alliance returning to power post polls," Thackeray, who shared the dais with

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at the Bandra Kurla Complex rally, said.

PM Modi laid the foundation for three metro lines which will be built at an investment of Rs 19,000 crore, and a part of the 337-km metro rail network for Mumbai during the event.

Calling the BJP-Sena alliance "atal" (unbreakable), Thackeray said, "We are not hankering for power. But we believe the power should be for development of people and the state of Maharashtra."

The Sena chief's comments come amid reports that the BJP and Sena are hardening their positions on sharing of seats. As per reports, the Sena wants the BJP to adhere to the 50:50 formula,

however, poll managers of the BJP are arguing for more seats to accommodate leaders from Opposition parties and its "growing political might". Of the total 288 seats, the BJP and the Sena have agreed to allocate 18 seats to smaller allies, but a formal deal is yet to be worked out.

Speaking at the programme, Thackeray lavished praise on Modi for nullifying Article 370, and gave a call for construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya and introduction of Uniform Civil Code.

"We express our gratitude to Modi for taking the decision to scrap special status of J&K. Now, we are confident Modi ji will build Ram temple in Ayodhya and introduce Uniform Civil Code," Thackeray said.

Cong panel to take call on MP leaders' remarks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 7

EVEN AS THE disciplinary committee of the Congress was asked to take a call on the controversial statements made by ministers and party leaders in Madhya Pradesh, the poster war continued unabated in the state on Saturday.

A poster was displayed outside the PCC office in Bhopal by a municipal councilor in support of Singh. Though the poster, with a large image of Singh, did not name Singh, the message was not lost on anyone. A poster had been displayed in Gwalior, the home turf of Jyotiraditya Scindia, on Friday which targeted Singh.

Singhar had levelled serious allegations against Singh while two party MLAs had accused Health Minister Tulsi Silawat of corruption before withdrawing their allegations.

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on whether the committee would decide only on statements by Forest Minister Umang Singh or other ministers and legislators.

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Speaking about the Centre's policies, Jyotiraditya Scindia stressed that rules and regulations need to be framed so that people encourage tree planting. He said that by ensuring adequate food and water in the forests, the problem of man-animal conflict can be tackled.

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NORTH

Pakistani troops resort to unprovoked firing in Poonch

Jammu: Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked mortar shelling and small arms fire along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Krishna Ghati area of Poonch district on Saturday. Giving details, defence ministry spokesperson Lt Colonel Devender Anand said that

Pakistan initiated the ceasefire violation around 7.45 am. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly. Meanwhile, sources said that firing from across the LoC stopped after sometime. However, there was no loss of life or damage to property on the Indian side.

PTI



A waterlogged street after heavy rain, in Mumbai on Saturday. IMD has predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall for the next two days in the city and adjoining areas. PTI

EAST

Police lathicharge crowd after spat over traffic fine

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Police on Saturday resorted to lathi-charge to disperse an angry crowd that had detained patrol vehicles in Bhubaneswar and asked police to produce documents complying with new rules of the Motor Vehicles Act. Police personnel were seen chasing

residents in Rajmahal Square after an argument broke out on whether police had driving licences, and pollution and registration certificates for their vehicles. "They are busy levying fines, but they do not have documents themselves. Rules are for everyone," said one angry resident.

ENS

WEST

Leopard found dead in Gir division

Vadodara: A carcass of a female leopard has been recovered from Itwaya village, under Jasadhar range of the Gir East division in Gujarat's Saurashtra, a senior forest officer said on Saturday. The deceased female is estimated to be 10 years old, according to Chief Conservator of Forests of Saurashtra, D T

Vasavada. He said the canine teeth and claws of the big cat were found intact. "Prima facie, a fight with a lion pride staying in that area could be the reason behind the death of the leopard," said Vasavada. He said the carcass has been sent to Jasadhar for post-mortem.

PTI

SOUTH

Nearly 300 Andhra villages on verge of flood

Amaravati: Hundreds of villages in East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh were again on the verge of floods as river Godavari remained in spate on Saturday. Heavy rains in Maharashtra, the main catchment area of Godavari, have increased the water

flow in the river with the level inching closer to the danger mark at the Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage in Dowleswaram. In all, 283 villages in the two Godavari districts face the threat of inundation if 10 lakh cusecs water is discharged.

PTI

BIDDING ADIEU



Devotees carry Ganesh idols for immersion, in Thane district.

M J AKBAR DEFAMATION CASE

Predator more powerful than his prey, Ramani tells court

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

JOURNALIST PRIYA Ramani on Saturday told a Delhi court that her tweet against former Union Minister M J Akbar was meant to highlight "the fact that we normalise sexual misconduct", and "we do not take it seriously" unless such action results in physical assault.

Ramani made the submission while recording her statement in the criminal defamation complaint filed by Akbar against her.

Appearing before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal's court, Ramani said, "I used the word predator (in tweet) in the context of my personal experience with Akbar and shared experiences of many other women. I also used the word to emphasise and highlight the difference in age, influence and power between Akbar and myself."

Talking about Akbar, who was her editor at *The Asian Age* newspaper when the alleged misconduct took place, Ramani said: "I was a young journalist. He was a

famous editor, 20 years older than me, who called me to his bedroom in a hotel for a job interview. A predator is more powerful than his prey."

In 2018, Ramani had levelled allegations of sexual misconduct and harassment against Akbar, who subsequently resigned as the Union Minister of State for External Affairs and filed the defamation case.

On Saturday, Ramani made the deposition under oath during her examination-in-chief. The court adjourned the matter for Monday, when her examination-in-chief is expected to conclude and her cross-examination by Akbar's counsel is expected to commence.

Ramani was talking about her tweet dated October 8, 2018, in which she wrote, "I began this piece (her article in *Vogue* magazine) with my MJ Akbar story. Never named him because he didn't 'do' anything. Lots of women have worse stories about this predator — maybe they will share."

Ramani was asked by her counsel, senior advocate Rebecca John, whether she wrote the tweet. She replied in the affirmative.

tive and said, "Almost exactly a year after my *Vogue* article, the MeToo movement began gaining momentum in India on Twitter...many women...began naming people who sexually harassed them at workplace."

Ramani told the court that after seeing all these women she was compelled to speak up about her alleged experience with Akbar in 1993. "So I removed anonymity that I had given Akbar in *Vogue* article one year ago and named him as the editor who had sexually harassed me. I tweeted linking my *Vogue* article. I tweeted that I began this piece with my MJ Akbar story. I have explained that only the first four paragraphs of the *Vogue* article were about the 1993 incident. I said I never named him because he did 'not' do anything."

She submitted: "I used the inverted commas to denote sarcasm. Sexual harassment can take many forms... By saying he did not 'do' anything, I was honestly disclosing that there was no overt physical attack. But that did not excuse Mr Akbar's sexually coloured behavior..."

But retired judge of Madras High Court, K Chandru, said, "When the Madras HC has the dubious distinction of having over 6 lakh cases pending and the decision of transfer was taken by a collegium comprising senior-most judges in the country, it has

Court spells out steps to record Unnao rape victim's testimony

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

A DELHI court hearing the Unnao rape and accident case on Saturday issued instructions to hold in-camera proceedings at the AIIMS trauma centre to record testimony of the victim.

District and Sessions Judge Dharmesh Sharma directed that recording of testimony of the victim will begin on September 11 and continue on a day-to-day basis until it is completed.

This comes after the Delhi High Court granted the trial court permission to hold trial proceedings inside Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre of AIIMS.

Expelled BJP MLA from UP Kuldeep Singh Sengar is accused

in the rape case and has also been booked for murder in the accident case, in which the victim and her lawyer sustained serious injuries while her two aunts died.

In his order, Judge Sharma said the CBI counsel, Ashok Bhartendu, and counsel for the complainant should reach AIIMS by 10 am for the proceedings. The court also directed that CCTV cameras installed inside the seminar hall or court will remain switched off, while they should be functional outside the temporary courtroom.

"The victim/survivor shall be brought on a stretcher/trolley and shall be stationed at the right side of the dais in the seminar hall so that she faces the court and not the learned counsel for the parties," the order read.

The court also directed that only one associate for the complainant, and not more than two associates for both accused persons — MLA Sengar and co-accused Shashi Singh — should be present to assist the main counsel in conducting the victim's cross-examination, and they need not be present in robes.

"It is directed that MS Trauma Centre, AIIMS, and doctors attending upon her shall appear every morning on the day of deposition of the victim/survivor in the seminar hall at 10 am and make a statement certifying [her] medical condition," the court said.

It asked Tihar Jail authorities to make special arrangements and ensure that both accused reach the venue. The CBI has been directed to ensure security arrangements.

On CJ's decision to quit, jurists' opinion divided, lawyers plan protest

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 7

A DAY after the resignation of Madras High Court Chief Justice V K Tahliraman, opinion was divided among jurists in Tamil Nadu over the Supreme Court collegium's decision to transfer her to a much smaller Meghalaya High Court, even as Madras HC lawyers prepare to abstain work on September 10 to protest what they called an "arbitrary" decision of the collegium.

Tahliraman, who was a judge in Mumbai HC, became Madras HC Chief Justice in August 2018.

After Justice Tahliraman disclosed her decision to resign to her colleagues at a dinner on Friday, and it was confirmed that she had sent her resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind, senior lawyer of Madras High Court R Vaigai on Saturday said that the collegium's decision was "arbitrary, to say the least."

The SC, she pointed out, had set some relevant factors for such transfers: "If the judge is mired in controversies, or their relatives (are) practising in the same court, or if there is a litigation against the judge, or for better administration of justice."

Among these, she said, the first three can be "ruled out easily" in Chief Justice Tahliraman's case. "If the fourth factor (better administration of justice) is the reason for her transfer, she was already working as the acting Chief Justice of Mumbai HC between 2017 and 2018. She was found suitable to head Madras HC by a collegium in which the current CJ was a member. When there was no controversy against her, what new factor has emerged to disturb her position now?" Vaigai asked.

But retired judge of Madras High Court, K Chandru, said, "When the Madras HC has the dubious distinction of having over 6 lakh cases pending and the decision of transfer was taken by a collegium comprising senior-most judges in the country, it has



Madras High Court Chief Justice V K Tahliraman

Monday against the collegium's decision.

This will come after Punjab lawyers had expressed discontent and demanded a fair deal for Justice Mittal by giving a "better HC" than Meghalaya, and Telangana lawyers protested two days ago against the transfer of Justice P V Sanjay Kumar, the senior-most judge of the court, to Punjab and Haryana HC as a junior-judge.

Criticising the protests, retired Justice Chandru said such transfers have taken place in the past as well. He took the examples of Justice Kannan Krishnamoorthy, who was transferred to Punjab and Haryana HC and served his full term, apparently over opposition to the appointment of one more Brahmin judge in Madras HC by certain political parties when K Balakrishnan was the CJ.

Chief Justice of Manipur HC, R Sudhakar, was transferred recently from the position of CJ of a much bigger Jammu & Kashmir HC but there was no protest, Justice Chandru pointed out.

He also noted that senior judges of Madras HC have mostly been appointed only in High Courts of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, but never get appointed as CJs of Bombay or Madhya Pradesh or Kolkata HCs.

"No one explains vagaries behind this decision-making process," he said. "Also, when judges from smaller HCs like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh were appointed as CJs of Madras HC, it was often (seen as) a quantum jump for them, as they come from a three-member HC to a 75 member High Court. When Justice Tahliraman's transfer was made by the collegium consisting of senior-most judges, when there was no malafide attributed, when there was no involvement of government in the process, one cannot presume that Justice Tahliraman's transfer was a victimisation," he said.

Cong says facts should emerge, CPM calls it deeply disturbing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

"The collegium's reasoning regarding her Meghalaya transfer is unavailable. Doubts are created by this lack of transparency. To clear the air, specific facts should emerge, otherwise speculations will make things worse," Rajya Sabha MP Abhishek Singhvi said.

judges cannot be considered a routine transfer and is a virtual demotion," senior CPM leader Brinda Karat said. "As it is there

are such few women judges at this level and the treatment meted out to her is insulting and humiliating not just to her but to women in general. She has had an impeccable record and is the seniormost High Court judge in the country."

Asked for his views, Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Abhishek Singhvi said, "It is always sad to see a judicial appointee at age 43 prematurely resigning with more than a year to go."

"The collegium's reasoning regarding her Meghalaya transfer is unavailable. Doubts are created by this lack of transparency. To clear the air, specific facts should emerge, otherwise speculations will make things worse," Rajya Sabha MP Abhishek Singhvi said.

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In Odisha, programme helps rural women turn entrepreneurs

SAMPAD PATNAIK
BOLGARH, SEPTEMBER 7

"WE NO longer have to beg or steal from the men to pay tuition fee for our children," says Samanta Begum, 34, as the women around her nod in agreement.

The women, part of a Self Help Group (SHG) in Arakapalli village in Khordha district, are elated that they have made Rs 1.7 lakh in profit this year after selling the harvest from a pisciculture project set up last year under the Odisha government's Mission Shakti.

Now overseeing six lakh SHGs with 69 lakh women, Mission Shakti, which the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD government began in 2001, ensures government departments help SHGs with sustainable income practices and lifestyle changes. This is an im-

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provement over the usual thrift-and-credit mechanism of SHGs, where women lend to each other or leverage bank loans.

In Arakapalli village, women SHGs have been encouraged to take up pisciculture, with Mission Shakti and the state Fishery Department leasing ponds to women for Rs 2,000 per acre per year, against market rates of about Rs 50,000.

The government also provides around 60 per cent of the project cost as subsidy. In the case of the Arakapalli SHG, that works out

to Rs 90,000 in subsidies to purchase fingerlings, food and medicines for the fish. The subsidy, the women members say, helped them make a windfall profit in the first year of the project.

"Money in the hands of rural women or semi-poor, urban women has a far greater impact on communities than money in the hands of men," says Commissioner-cum-Director, Mission Shakti, Sujata Karthikeyan. "Industrialisation does boost the state economy, but the micro economy has to be boosted with the help of women."

Explaining the need for subsidies and low rents (on ponds), Karthikeyan adds, "The aim is also that SHGs graduate to micro enterprises. The government has to handhold up to a level, but after that, the SHGs will be able to fully compete in the free market."

To increase the lure of eco-

friendly ventures for Odisha's women, Mission Shakti is incubating those that combine food security with an income source. "Women-led pisciculture is also a food-security project because their children and the larger community get to eat some of the fish cultivated, fresh and without any additional expense," says Shri Pati, a consultant with Mission Shakti.

Several SHGs under Mission Shakti also run Take Home Ration (THR) units, where they produce, pack and sell 'chhutia', a nutritious food made by mixing roasted wheat, Bengal gram, nuts and sugar in a mandated proportion. While the income from THRs are modest, women working there say they are happy to be doing the work because chhutia mixed with milk is an inexpensive and effective deterrent against child malnutrition.

"We feed the children of a cluster of villages as well as our own," says Sudipta Sahu, who works with a THR unit in Bolgarpur. "Money comes second."

Mission Shakti is in the process of setting up a Management Information System (MIS) that will give details of how many of its six lakh SHGs are engaged in a particular economic activity. In its 2019 election manifesto, the BJD had promised to provide business worth Rs 5,000 to women SHGs, with a profit of about Rs 500 crore.

A few kilometers away, in Ghorodia village, another SHG



In Ghorodia village, SHG members read electricity meters and use their smartphones to generate bills and collect fees

registered under Mission Shakti reads electricity meters in the locality. Women, many of whom haven't studied beyond high school, use smart phones to generate bills, collect fees and submit the collection to electricity distributor FEDCO (Feedback Energy Distribution Company).

"We (women) make better collection agents because people cannot turn us away when we ask them to settle electricity dues. Even when the man of the house is away, as women can step into the customer's kitchen and catch hold of his wife," laughs Sushama Sahoo, 50, member of Maa Mangala SHG.

For every Rs 100 collected in dues, each woman receives Rs 6 as collection or agent fee. She also earns Rs 3 per meter reading. While earnings vary, every group member earns on an average Rs 2,000 a month.

New Delhi

Villagers attack policemen in Bihar

Muzaffarpur: A mob attacked a police team following the recovery of bodies of two persons, who had been kidnapped on Friday, from a rivulet in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district on Saturday, police sources said.

The police fired in the air after they were attacked in

Madhuban Desi village under Aurai police station area, SSP Manoj Kumar said.

Three policemen were injured and were admitted to Aurai primary health centre, sources said. Additional police force has been sent to the village to control the situation. PTI

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Engineer in Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan
K.G.Road, Bengaluru - 560 009
RFP NO: BWSSB/EIC/ACE/QA/TAQA/452/2019-20 Date: 06.09.2019

Tender for the assignment of Empaneling of third party inspection agencies for inspection of various works and materials (Only through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB hereby invites to submit technical and financial proposals required for the above assignment.

The purpose of the assignment is to empanel agencies towards III party inspection of various materials and works carried out as per applicable contract terms and conditions (above 100.00 Lakhs).

The last date and time for receipt of tenders is 25.09.2019 upto 15:00 hrs. The technical bids will be opened on 27.09.2019 at 15:00 hrs. Further details can be obtained from the office of undersigned or by logging on to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Engineer-in-Chief

कायाल्य प्राचार्य,
आचार्य पंथ श्री गृन्थ मुनिनाम साहेब शासकीय
स्नातकोत्तर महाविद्यालय, कवर्धा

जिल्हा- कवीधाम (छगा.)
(अग्रणी महाविद्यालय)

पत्र क्र. 685/स्नात/2019 कवर्धा, दिनांक- 30.08.2019

खुली निविदा सूचना

आचार्य श्री गृन्थ मुनि नाम साहेब शासकीय स्नातकोत्तर महाविद्यालय, कवर्धा में सत्र 2019-20 में रुसा मर से विभिन्न संकरीय के लिए लेब उपकरण एवं अन्य मालां (अनुमति राशि 2391380.00 अश्वर) तेलस लाख इक्काले हजार तीन सौ अस्त्री रुपये मात्र) का क्रय किया जाना है। अतः इस द्वेष निविदा महाविद्यालय के शर्तों के अन्तर्गत 30 सितम्बर, 2019 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक अभियार्ति को जारी है। निष्परित तिथि पर चतुर प्राप्त निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। निविदाएँ दिनांक 30.09.2019 को अपराह्न 4.00 बजे खोली जावेगी। निविदा से संबंधित समस्त जानकारी जैसे निविदा की शर्त, उपकरण समग्री सूची, आदि महाविद्यालय के वेबसाइट www.pgcollgekawardha.edu.in से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। निविदा भरने के पूर्व शर्तों का भली-भांति अवलोकन कर लें।

हस्ता/-
(डॉ. एस.एस. महापात्र)

प्र. प्राचार्य

आचार्य पंथ श्री गृन्थ मुनिनाम साहेब शासकीय स्नातकोत्तर महाविद्यालय, कवर्धा

कवर्धा

73093

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD

SHORT NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

(Through e-procurement mode only over https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

Tender Notice No. - PR 376/2019

Bihar School Examination Board, Patna invites e-tenders under two bid systems from the reputed Agency/ Sound Firms/Companies for the "Change of First Two pages of various Old Answer Books for Examination 2020 (Annual) as per decision of BSEB".

Scope of Work : Change of First Two pages of various Old Answer Books for Examination 2020 (Annual) as per decision of BSEB.

Cost of Tender document (In Rupees)	Tender processing Fee (Non Refundable) (inclusive of GST @18.00%) to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit card) (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)
500.00 (Five Hundred Rupees only)	1,180 (One Thousand One Hundred Eighty Rupees only)	20,000 (Twenty Thousand Rupees only)

Tender Schedule/ Programme

Date and Time for Activity	Date/Time/ Duration
Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From 09.09.2019 (11:00 Hrs.) to 25.09.2019 (13:00 Hrs.) (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

Pre-Bid meeting	13.09.2019 at 12:15 Hrs. (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Last Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	25.09.2019 up to 13:00 Hrs. (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

Submission of form fee & EMD in Hard copy/Original	25.09.2019 up to 13:30 Hrs. (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid	25.09.2019 at 14:00 Hrs. (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)

Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Date to be announced later by competent authority
♦ Detailed descriptions of the items and instructions for submitting your offer can be downloaded from e-tender website https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in .	

♦ For support related to e-tendering process, Bidders may contact at e-Procurement HELP DESK First Floor, M/22, Bank of India Building, Road No-25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Patna-800011, Ph. No: 0612-253006, Mob- 754228164" or may visit the link "Vendor Info" at <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>.

♦ Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, will be published on e-Procurement Portal, Bihar <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in> itself.

♦ Contact Details : Sh. Kishore Singh, Nodal officer - +91 6299923095, E-Mail ID - eproc.bse@gmail.com

♦ Note : Bihar School Examination Board reserves the right to accept/ reject/ reschedule any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Secretary

पत्र क्र. 512 / दिनांक 07.09.2019

पत्र क्र. 512 / दिनांक 07.09.2019

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PHUSRO NAGAR PARISHAD

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL/E-Procurement Notice

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO.UDD/PNP/04/2019-20

Date: 06.09.2019

No. Description of Package

Estimated Capital & O&M Cost (Rs. in lac)

Earnest Money(Rs. in lac)

Tender Fee (Rs.)

Completion Period

Door to Door Collection, Transfer, Transportation, Developing and operating an integrated Municipal Solid Waste Processing Facility and Engineered Sanitary Landfill Facility in municipal area as per SWM Rules 2016, for Phusro town Jharkhand, on a long - term Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) basis for Municipal Solid Waste with 20 years O&M

1 1029.32 & 13201.82

16 Month Construction & 20 Yrs. O&M

Issue of RFP 10.09.2019

Last date for receiving queries 20.09.2019

Pre bid meeting 26.09.2019

Proposal due date 03.10.2019 By 5:00 PM

Opening of technical bid 04.10.2019 By 5:30 PM

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SC judge: Criticising executive, judiciary, bureaucracy cannot be called sedition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 7

AS CITIZENS, Indians have the right to criticise the government, and criticism cannot be construed as sedition, Justice Deepak Gupta of Supreme Court said on Saturday, adding that stifling such criticism will make us a police state.

Clarifying at the onset of his speech – on “Sedition and freedom of expression” – that views expressed are his own as an individual, and not as a Supreme Court judge, Justice Gupta said, “Criticism of the executive, the judiciary, the bureaucracy, the armed forces cannot be termed sedition. If we stifle criticism of these institutions, we shall become a police state instead of a democracy.”

He said, “For me, there is a very important right which is not spelt out in the Constitution... the right of freedom of opinion, the right of freedom of conscience, by themselves, include



Justice Deepak Gupta in Ahmedabad on Saturday. Express

'BEING TARGETED FOR REPORTING FACTS'

2 journalists booked for fake news on Dalit family: UP cops

AMIT SHARMA
MEERUT, SEPTEMBER 7

BINJOR POLICE on Saturday said that an FIR has been registered against two journalists – one working with a local daily and another with a local electronic media outlet – for “fake news reports claiming that a Dalit family in Titarwala Basi village under Mandawar police station area was not allowed to collect water from a village hand pump by an influential family of their community in the same village”.

In a video circulated on social media, Vishal, one of the journalists who were booked, claimed, “We received a call from one Premchand Valmiki of Basi village on September 4. He claimed that some influential persons of the village had threatened him and his family not to use a hand pump near their residence. Thus, they (the family) put up posters saying ‘house for sale’. We went to the village to collect facts and published a report in this regard.”

The other journalist who was booked on Saturday was identified as Rashid, police said.

Alleging that the two journalists were being “made targets” by the police for “factual

reporting”, several local mediapersons took out a protest march in Bijnor on Saturday. “A journalist association here has formed an eight-member committee to take their fight to a logical end,” said Iftikhar Ahmed, a local journalist.

“The FIR against us has exposed the malafide intentions of the local police and is a big blow to the freedom of press. We are not frightened but the manner in which the voice of the media is being muzzled is a dangerous sign,” Vishal claimed in the video.

“We want the FIR to be scrapped and action must be taken against local police, who are biased against the press,” Vishal can be heard alleging in the video.

Satendra Kumar, in-charge of Mandawar police station told *The Sunday Express* on phone, “An FIR was registered against two local journalists for fake reporting in connection with a Dalit family in Basi village. The fact is that a team of Mandawar police went to the village when Premchand Valmiki registered a complaint with us. The police team called both the factions and they agreed (in presence of the police) that they will not fight over the issue of drinking

water any further. I am on a raid in connection with a case and cannot give more details.”

Shiv Kumar, Mandawar village pradhan, said the issue has been settled due to the intervention of the police. “There was an issue regarding the Premchand family collecting water from a hand pump near their residence. There is a community hand pump outside Premchand’s residence but it developed snags, prompting him and his family to gather water from another hand pump in the village. But the issue has been settled due to the timely intervention of the Mandawar police.”

Bijnor SP Sanjeev Tyagi told *The Sunday Express*, “The Mandawar police registered an FIR against two journalists who have run fake news regarding purported non-availability of water to a Dalit family, who then allegedly put up posters on an ‘exodus’ from the village and also claiming that the house was on sale. We ordered an inquiry and found that nothing of the sort has happened. There is no question of the voice of the media being muzzled. Our campaign is against reporting of fake news.”

The Valmiki Action Committee claims the serial, airing on Colors TV, contained derogatory remarks against the ‘Bhagwan Valmiki’, thereby hurting religious sentiments. The organisation has demanded the serial’s telecast be banned countrywide and its director and cast arrested.

Warning against attempts to disturb peace and communal harmony, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh late Saturday ordered immediate ban on the telecast of the serial. He also asked the DGP to ensure strict vigil and crack down on disruptive elements.

Earlier in the day, commercial establishments were closed in Jalandhar, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, Phagwara and Ferozepur.

In Jalandhar’s Nakodar, a shopkeeper opened fire after protesters tried to enforce the

or a spiritualist person all have the right to expression. “When you talk of dissent, who can forget Justice H R Khanna in the habeas corpus case. That dissent is more important than any decision that may have come before or after it. Today, it is the rule of law.”

In the case he referred to, a five-member bench was adjudicating on the matter of those detained during the Emergency in 1975, and Justice Khanna was the lone dissenter, while the four other judges in the bench allowed unrestricted powers of detention during the Emergency.

Emphasising the importance of freedom to criticise all institutions, Justice Gupta said, “We have the right to criticise the government in power, whichever government it may be. The misuse of the sedition law is against the very principle that our freedom fighters fought for.”

Maintaining that those in power have to “develop thick skins”, he said, “They can’t be oversensitive to people who make fun of them. Humour is a very vital part of our life. Parliament has become a battle of loudest of voice and not battle of wits.... We all have to be open to criticism. The judiciary is not above criticism and I welcome introspection within the judiciary. If we look within ourselves. That is the only way we can improve.”

Punjab: One hurt in violence during bandh against serial

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, LUDHIANA,
JALANDHAR, SEPTEMBER 7

THE VALMIKI community enforced a day-long bandh on Saturday against the telecast of a TV serial that they say distorted “historical facts”, hours after they announced to withdraw the call for the stir after the Punjab government suspended telecast of the serial *Ram Siya Ke Luv-Kush*.

The bandh threw life out of gear in parts of the state as markets remained shut and several incidents of violence were reported, including a shopkeeper allegedly shooting at a protester.

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Should we reject all traditional wisdom outright? That would not be scientific... We need to have a good scientific investigation into our traditional wisdom... Countries like China have monetised it"



WHY ASHUTOSH SHARMA

Since taking charge five years ago, Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, has been at the centre of the government's major policy interventions and funding decisions in the field. Recently, his department announced 15 SATHI (Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes)

hubs with high-end infrastructure, which will not just help scientists and students but also start-ups and industries with R&D. A former student of IIT Kanpur, he was head of the chemical engineering department and founding coordinator of the Nanosciences Centre and Advanced Imaging Centre at the institute



"Young girls are told maths is not for them, their brains are wired differently... Complete nonsense... Areas like AI, IoT, it's all maths... If youth are told this, they will see excitement, opportunities in the field"

'Education has been reduced to cracking exams...We cannot be producing zombies'

Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Dept of Science & Technology, talks about developments in the field, laments the state of school education, dismisses "difference" between Indian and foreign journals, and explains why there is falling interest in science among children



Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, with Pune Resident Editor Amitabh Sinha in The Indian Express newsroom. Amit Mehra

AMITABH SINHA: Even though the budget seems to have increased over the last five years, we hear voices from within the scientific community about fund cuts at both individual and institutional levels.

A part of the problem related to budgets and funding is perceptional. There has been an increase in fellowships, for example, varying from 15 to 35 per cent. Secondly, any increase is tagged with inflation. So if inflation is 10 per cent, then the increase (in funding) has to be more. We have to look at the indices, and there has to be a logic to it. We could obviously do with more, but this (current budget) was a reasonable raise — logical and rational.

Secondly, do we need more resources for scientific research? Certainly, and it has been growing. But, we must keep in mind the absorption capacity. If you look not just at research funding but research funding per scientist, then India would compare favourably with many countries. It's because the number of our scientists is also much more limited. For example, we are almost six times smaller than China.

There are other factors too: one is the purchase power parity. If you look at it in terms of human resources, there is a huge differential. For example, a PhD student at MIT might cost about US \$100,000 per year. So when you say that a million-dollar grant is typical in the US, the fact is that it only supports some PhD students. Here, all of that comes for free. A large number of our PhD students get fellowships from the government, different agencies, from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Human Resource Development, the University Grants Commission, and this is not factored in the research funding. About 80,000 PhD students in our country are supported through full fellowships. If you multiply this with \$100,000 every year, you will see that the budget is actually much more than what is visible on the surface.

Having said that, we certainly do need more funding. Now that means we must define large missions which are relevant, of quality, and which would be useful in securing our future. There are three-four large-scale missions being formulated now and these will bring exciting new opportunities and more funding.

AMITABH SINHA: What are these new missions?

One of them is quantum devices and technologies. It's for the future. We need to be ready for the future 10 years from now... The other is the clean energy mission. Clean energy in the Indian context has a somewhat different meaning than other places. We have lots of coal but the only way we are using it is for generating power, which is a 'dirtier' option. So we need to have a few things done immediately. One is clean coal production or clean power production using coal, which is called advanced ultra super-critical technology. We started working on it two years ago. In the next couple of years, all new power plants are going to use this technology, which increases the efficiency of power conversion and decreases the emission.

Another mission that is underway is 'Map India'. It's a huge technology mission. We could not have done this five years ago — to map every nook and corner of India at 10 cm accuracy, in terms of both height and

lateral mapping, and then geotag all our assets, all our boundaries. It would be a game changer because something like this hasn't happened in a hundred years.

AMITABH SINHA: Why doesn't India have a world-class journal of its own?

It's partly because of our cultural legacy... (We feel) that the things that we produce or have are not as good unless they are certified by somebody from outside. We need to work on this mindset. Today's generation has much more confidence than my generation did. But there is this cultural legacy as per which we cannot be as successful in science as the so-called developed nations. For a century or more, our scientists have been going out. Now, we have introduced a new scheme under which the best global scientists can come here and work. It has been hugely successful. These scientists get integrated with our universities and IITs, spend up to three months every year in our country, and guide our PhD students. So, instead of sending a 100 students out, if one big scientist comes here, it produces a culture that influences 100 people right here. The scheme is called VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty scheme. We had about 500 applicants and we chose only 50. The scheme has brought about a big change.

As for producing world-class journals, there is no differentiation now between international and national journals because all of them are held by multinationals. There is no country specificity. All journals are judged by the same yardstick — impact factor, citation rate etc. So, as we improve the quality of our journals, it will not be a question of who is publishing them. In fact our best journal, Indian journal if you may call it, was from the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru. It is now being published by an international conglomerate as well because it has greater reach. So what we need to strengthen — it doesn't matter where it is published, don't call it a national journal or international journal — is the quality and utilisation of our knowledge, and then many journals will come out.

ABANTIKA GHOSH: How does the HRD Minister asking IIT engineers to look into how Ram Setu was built impact the knowledge ecosystem?

I will not comment on what an individual has said. I think the larger issue here is that should we reject all traditional wisdom or knowledge outright. That would not be scientific. Clearly, there are issues re-

lated to sustainable growth, water conservation, traditional medicinal herbs, lifestyle choices such as yoga and meditation... we need to have a good scientific understanding and investigation into our traditional wisdom. We must not reject it simply because it is traditional wisdom. Some countries like China have monetised it. They have done a lot of research related to lifestyle choices, especially herbal treatments. In our case, we have Ayurvedic treatments. It requires scientific investigation. To reject it would be unscientific.

AMITABH SINHA: What would the Chandrayaan-2 mission mean for Indian science?

(The Idea Exchange was held on September 2, before the mission failed.)

It's a very good example of a mega project where you define the deliverables — this is the objective, this is the mission, and I have to bring all kinds of science and technology together to make it successful. India is a partner in many international mega projects. For example, CERN's Large Hadron Collider, the Thirty Meter Telescope, the largest telescope facility coming up in the world. Also in LIGO, which is detecting gravitational waves. Typically these are driven by the DST and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). We are typically 50-50 partners. And, in the future, if we were to set up this or the components of this technology, we would have the knowhow... We want that our industry should start bidding more and more for international projects based on the knowhow that is generated and passed on to them. So there are these big international tenders coming

"We need more (IITs). We must not just create a brand but sustain it... Need the right faculty... The foundation should be strong... If you miss out...then it takes a generation or two to bring about any change

from CERN etc. Our industry must competitively participate in that process.

AMITABH SINHA: But unlike in other countries, we haven't seen a very thriving private space industry in India. Why is technology diffusion not happening here?

There is absolutely no doubt that such a situation is very desirable because it is the muscle of the industry that drives the economy forward. But it is happening more and more. Perhaps 10-15 years ago the missions were very inwardly focused. (Now) the DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation), ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), what you call the strategic departments dealing with science and technology, they are interfacing with the industry more and more. That is certainly a desirable direction and I am hopeful that more of it will happen.

RITIKA CHOPRA: There have been complaints from colleges of not getting enough students in pure sciences. Then, more than half the seats in engineering colleges in the country are vacant. Does that worry you as far as the future of science and technology is concerned?

We do need some very fundamental changes in our school education, in the sense that we need to become more critical, instead of just mugging up everything in the books and reproducing it in exams. What have we really learnt from school education? We have learnt to crack exams. If you ask someone, why are we actually going to school, they will say to get into IIT.



And what after IIT? They will say I will get a job. The meaning of education, the capacity to learn in a changing world, has been reduced to this bottomline. It is not very conducive to either growth of knowledge or growth of the economy. The two are intertwined.

We have to produce thinking, living people — young people who have energy. It's too late by the time you get to a PhD or get a job. That foundation starts from nursery. For example, if you want to get admission to MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), what do you do? They (the university) doesn't just rely on a grade or a single school exam, they go ahead and conduct an interview. They look at extracurricular activities, they would look at what is the potential of this person. Can we do that? You would immediately see the problems in translating this idea in the context of the reality that we have. But it has to be addressed. There is absolutely no other option. We cannot be producing a large number of zombies. What we have is the individual brilliance of people, a desire to grow, a desire to be creative in finding solutions... How do we leverage that?

About the less interest in science, it has something to do with societal values and the industrial jobs that are available. If the industry was more knowledge-based, then you would have had more people pursuing science. It is a question of supply and demand. It's the same for less interest in mathematics. There is a cultural aspect to it. I know that a lot of young girls are told in high school that mathematics is not for them, that their brains are wired differently. This is complete nonsense. So they opt for biology, medicine, but not mathematics. When people look at job opportunities in mathematics... they don't realise that there are a lot of contemporary areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, Internet of Things, all of that is mathematics. So if we present mathematics in this way, it will be inspirational for our young people because they will then see the excitement and opportunities in the field.

What also worries me is that anybody who is bright is either doing medicine, engineering or MBA. Why are they not pursuing history, archaeology, philosophy? It is because of the societal values (attached to the Arts). The top 10 per cent people of the country are only being drawn into certain professions and that makes for a very distorted society. So what is true of mathematics, is also true of the Arts.

RAJ KAMAL JHA: Is there an institutional way for the DST to convey some of these concerns to school boards such as the CBSE or ICSE?

There are. Under the umbrella of scientific social responsibility, there are a whole lot of things that go on. But finally, it is change within the society which leads to transformation. It does not come from the government.

AMITABH SINHA: You are a product of the IIT system. In the last 15 years, IITs have seen a huge expansion. Is it a step in the right direction?

It is true that for many decades we did not build anything. There were these few IITs... It would have been best if we had continued to build quality institutions. So if your question is do we need more (IITs), we certainly need more. Look at China. They have the same population as us. When I went to China 20 years ago, I said that they are far worse than us. We had better institutions than them. Then, they used to visit our IITs. I remember there was a delegation and they looked at what made IIT great etc. They looked very carefully into every process and then said that they would make a 100 next year.

So we certainly need more (institutions). Having said that, we have to pay attention to not just creating a brand but sustaining that brand. We need to get the right kind of faculty... The foundation should be strong. If you miss out on the right kind of human resources in the beginning, then it takes nearly a generation or two before you can bring about any change.

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN: Technology is always moving really fast, and policy seems to be lagging behind. Many companies are exploiting this, including data firms. Is there an effort to reduce this lag?

One has to be far more responsive to technology challenges today. I think there is a greater awareness of this in our bureaucratic mechanisms. Disruptive technology changes are coming at faster and faster speeds. Artificial intelligence, the rise of intelligent machines, is a very good example of it. So our scientists also have to wake up to the scale, speed and pervasiveness of the changes. These disruptive technology changes require that I be aware of not only what I do, but also all the proximal areas of technology.

ON SEPTEMBER 2, when Karnal Singh, former Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), issued a press statement denying charges of alleged bribery levelled against him by a former deputy, the first to take a dig at him was Karti Chidambaram. He wrote on Twitter: "I feel the pain of Karnal Singh against "unsubstantiated allegations" @dir_ed (ED's official twitter handle). The chickens come home to roost."

Karti's jibe was in reference to the INX Media case, in which he is a key accused and his father, former finance minister P Chidambaram, is in judicial custody in Delhi's Tihar Jail. The entire INX media case is the result of a proactive ED chasing the Chidambarams for more than half a decade now.

In December 2015, ED had conducted searches at offices allegedly linked to Karti in Chennai and elsewhere. The raids were conducted in connection with the agency's money laundering probe into the Aircel-Maxis deal. During the searches, the agency stumbled upon documents that suggested that a company "indirectly controlled" by Karti had received payments from INX Media in the period that it was granted Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) approval for FDI.

The agency promptly sent a reference, along with the seized documents, to the CBI, which registered a case in the matter in May 2017. The ED followed this up with a case of money laundering against Karti based on the CBI FIR. (Under the statute that governs the agency, the ED cannot initiate a money laundering probe against anyone unless an FIR has been registered by another agency or state police on charges with financial implications.) In February 2018, the CBI arrested Karti.

The ED further sent a reference, along with documents, on payments made by as many as four companies to some of Karti's alleged firms around the time they received FIPB approvals. CBI sources now say the agency is probing the father-son duo in these cases as well.

The series of events since 2015 is a pointer to how the ED has emerged as arguably the most proactive of Central investigative agencies, now at the centre of several high-profile cases, many of these involving members of opposition parties. Increasingly dreaded in the power corridors, it is now referred to as "the new CBI".

As an ED officer put it: "Just listen to the statements of opposition leaders when they attack the government on 'misuse of agencies'. Earlier, it used to be 'the government has unleashed CBI, IT and ED against its opponents'. These days, the order invariably is the ED, CBI and IT."

Enforcement Directorate chief SK Mishra declined to offer his comments for this story.

A long list of cases

The ED's swift, often bullish, approach has been evident in the way it has dealt with several other cases, among them the one involving Ratul Puri, nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath. In July, Puri embarrassed the ED by escaping from its office where he had been called for questioning in connection with the Rs 3,600 crore AgustaWestland chopper deal case. Puri excused himself to visit the washroom and then never came back. By afternoon, he approached a Delhi court for anticipatory bail.

In subsequent days, the court saw unprecedented drama where, in a bid to win his custody, the ED went on to claim that a witness in the case may have been murdered.

With the anticipatory bail plea going on to linger in the Delhi High Court, the ED had the last laugh. Before the High Court could pronounce a verdict on August 20 on Puri's anticipatory bail plea, the ED arrested him in another case, that of bank fraud. That afternoon, even his bail plea was rejected.

On September 3, the ED arrested Congress leader and former Karnataka minister D K Shivakumar after questioning him for over 30 hours starting August 30. The ED probe against Shivakumar is based on a chargesheet filed last year by the Income Tax Department alleging tax evasion.

Even in the AgustaWestland case, the ED has been steps ahead of the CBI in terms of arrests or legal submission in the form of chargesheets. While the CBI registered an FIR in the case in March 2013 and the ED initiated its money laundering probe only later, it was the ED that made the first arrest in the case — middleman Gautam Khetan was held in September 2014 and the agency subsequently filed the first prosecution complaint (equivalent to a chargesheet) in the case. It even chargesheeted British middleman Christian Michel much before he arrived in India.

The CBI, on the other hand, made its first arrest in the case — that of former IAF chief SP Tyagi — only in May 2016. It has since filed multiple chargesheets in the case.

While probing former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Hooda or the Gandhi family too, the ED has shown greater alacrity than the CBI.

In July 2016, taking cognisance of a Haryana Vigilance Bureau FIR registered in May that year, the ED registered a case of money laundering against Hooda for allotting a plot in Panchkula to Associate Journals Ltd (AJL), the publisher of *National Herald* newspaper. AJL is owned by Young India, which in turn is run by the Gandhi family. The ED has since not only taken possession of the land but even filed a prosecution complaint against Congress leaders Motilal Vora and Hooda. The CBI registered a case in the matter only in April 2017.

Similarly, in the case of Robert Vadra, son-in-law of Congress president Sonia Gandhi, it was the ED which first raided the offices of Skylight Hospitality, a company at the heart of several dubious land deals in Rajasthan and Haryana and owned by Vadra.

In December 2018, the ED raided the offices of Skylight Hospitality, claiming the



Congress leader P Chidambaram at the CBI court in Delhi. File

EXPLAINED

What gives the ED its teeth

ARMED WITH the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, a law that has been strengthened over the years since it came into force in 2005, the Enforcement Directorate has fast risen to be a powerful Central agency. The statute's provisions — granting the agency powers to arrest, and attach properties and assets of the accused, its stringent bail conditions, and making a statement recorded before an investigating officer admissible in a court as evidence, among others — have made the ED far more powerful than the CBI. Despite securing just eight convictions since 2005, over the past five years, the ED has been more proactive than the CBI in going after the accused in several key political cases, the most recent being the INX Media case against P Chidambaram and the alleged money laundering case against Karnataka Congress leader D K Shivakumar.

ing officer is admissible in a court as evidence. Laws with such provisions, such as TADA and POTA, have long been repealed.

In 2011, the ED underwent massive restructuring, becoming a force of 2,067 officers (sanctioned strength) and staff, up from 758 earlier, even as its offices increased from 21 to 49 across the country. In comparison, the CBI has 4,000 officers and staff.

Until 2017, the Act had a provision that an arrested accused could be granted bail only if the court was satisfied that the accused was not guilty. The provision was struck down by the Supreme Court on the ground that it pre-supposed the trial at the stage of bail itself.

Until this provision was in force, those accused under the PMLA rarely got bail before an incarceration that could last anywhere between two and three years. Given that money laundering offences attract between three and seven years of punishment in jail, this was considered practically like serving the sentence. Almost no one got bail until a chargesheet in the case was filed. Of the over 120 persons accused by the ED and arrested under the PMLA between 2005 and 2017, no more than two or three people secured bail in a matter of months.

Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Shah, who was booked by the ED in connection with an alleged terror funding case in 2017, is still behind bars. NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal, arrested in March 2016 in a money laundering case, was granted bail in May 2018 after two years of incarceration.

But the most potent and coercive tool that the Act grants the ED is the power to attach properties of the accused. The PMLA also puts the burden of proof on the accused as it presumes intent. Under the statute, if a person possesses a property that the agency can prove has been bought with the proceeds of a crime, it is not bound by law to prove that the person had an intention to launder money. Similarly, Section 22 states that where any property or records are seized from any person under this Act, it shall be presumed that such a person is the owner of such property or records.

These properties, often worth crores of rupees and sometimes residences of the accused — 50% of Chidambaram's Jor Bagh bungalow has been attached by the ED — can become out of bounds for the accused for years if the agency takes possession of it.

In contrast, the CBI can only arrest and prosecute people.

Only 8 convictions since 2005

However, for all its powers and show of strength, the agency has a rather poor record in terms of taking cases to the logical conclusion. Of around 2,400 cases that it has registered under the PMLA since 2005, only eight have ended in conviction. Its investigation too has remained tardy, with prosecution complaints having been filed in only 688 cases till June 2019.

It's this record that has remained a matter of concern for the Ministry of Finance. In 2016, then Revenue Secretary Hansmukh Adhia had chided the agency for slow investigations and no convictions. In reply, then ED Director Karnal Singh had said that ED cases were delayed because they were associated with "influential people".

Agency sources said poor conviction did not reflect on the agency but rather on the judiciary. "Till date, there has been just one acquittal in PMLA cases. All our prosecution complaints have been taken cognisance of. Our investigation is tardy because we have just 1,000 staff," a senior officer says.

Besides, they point out, the PMLA came into effect only in 2005, and 14 years is not a long time to secure convictions in Indian courts.

For a small agency, the ED has been punching way above its weight. It continues to work under severe stress with close to 50% vacancies even as the number of cases entrusted to it keep on rising. The agency does not even have its own building. With no detention rooms of its own, unlike the CBI, the ED sends arrested accused to dingy lock-ups of local police stations — the reason why many politicians resist an ED custody more forcefully than the CBI's.

ED's long arm

The Enforcement Directorate is now investigating several high-profile cases, including the INX Media case against former Union minister P Chidambaram. DEEPTIMAN TIWARY on ED's transformation from a small enforcement agency prosecuting civil offences to becoming "the new CBI"

THE ED SCORECARD

UNDER PMLA

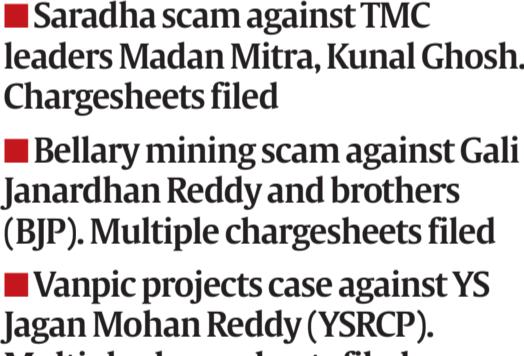
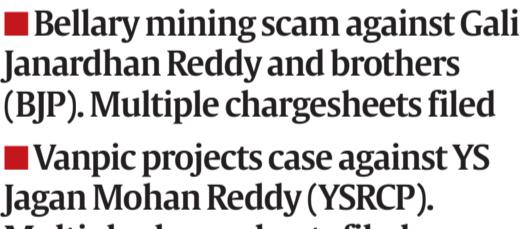
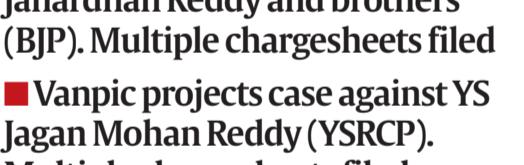
Total cases (since 2005)	2,400 (approx)
Investigation pending	898
Cases ending in conviction	8
Value of Assets Attached	Rs 56,961 crore

UNDER FEMA

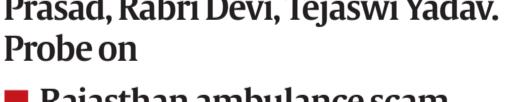
Total cases since 2005	12,000 (approx)
Cases pending probe	6,944

All data up to June 30, 2019

ED CASES UNDER UPA (2004-2014)

 Case against former Jharkhand CM Madhu Koda (left) and others. Status: Former Jharkhand minister Harinarayan Rai convicted	Dasari Narayan Rao, Naveen Jindal (Cong). Chargesheets filed
 Saradha scam against TMC leaders Madan Mitra, Kunal Ghosh. Chargesheets filed	Saradha scam against TMC leaders Madan Mitra, Kunal Ghosh. Chargesheets filed
 Bellary mining scam against Gali Janardhan Reddy and brothers (BJP). Multiple chargesheets filed	Bellary mining scam against Gali Janardhan Reddy and brothers (BJP). Multiple chargesheets filed
 Vanpic projects case against YS Jagannath Reddy (YSRCP). Multiple chargesheets filed	Vanpic projects case against YS Jagannath Reddy (YSRCP). Multiple chargesheets filed
 Drug case in which Akali Dal leader Bilkram Singh Majithia was questioned. Chargesheet filed, Majithia not named	Drug case in which Akali Dal leader Bilkram Singh Majithia was questioned. Chargesheet filed, Majithia not named
 FEMA violation and money laundering case against Baba Ramdev. Cases closed under NDA	FEMA violation and money laundering case against Baba Ramdev. Cases closed under NDA

ED CASES UNDER NDA (SINCE 2014)

 J&K Cricket Association case against National Conference's Farooq Abdullah (left). Probe on	J&K Cricket Association case against National Conference's Farooq Abdullah (left). Probe on
 IRCTC scam case against RJD leaders Lalu Prasad, Rabri Devi, Tejaswi Yadav. Probe on	IRCTC scam case against RJD leaders Lalu Prasad, Rabri Devi, Tejaswi Yadav. Probe on
 Rajasthan ambulance scam against Cong leaders Ashok Gehlot, Karti Chidambaram, Sachin Pilot. Probe on	Rajasthan ambulance scam against Cong leaders Ashok Gehlot, Karti Chidambaram, Sachin Pilot. Probe on
 Sand mining scam against Akhilesh Yadav. Probe on	Sand mining scam against Akhilesh Yadav. Probe on
 Statue case against Mayawati. Probe on	Statue case against Mayawati. Probe on
 Narada sting case against TMC leaders. Probe on	Narada sting case against TMC leaders. Probe on

And thus was born the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Much of the ED's current aggression, followed by frenetic media coverage, has come about in the past one decade since the ED began to handle political cases under the PMLA. Ironically, much of it happened during the tenure of P Chidambaram as Finance Minister. It was under him that the PMLA came into force in 2005 — though it was the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government that brought the PMLA Bill to Parliament, which passed it in 2002 — and the ED acquired criminal prosecution powers that had been snatched from it after the repeal of FERA.

It was under Chidambaram that the ED began to frequently take up political cases and

regularly hit headlines with actions in the Madhu Koda case, the 2G scam probe, the Aircel-Maxis case, the CWG case, the Sahara case, the Bellary mining case involving the BJP's Reddy brothers, the Vanpnic projects case involving YS Jagannath Reddy and cases against Baba Ramdev during the UPA regime.

The cases against Ramdev were closed after the NDA came to power. The Madhu Koda case became the first in the history of the agency to end in conviction. The 2G scam case has fallen through in court and the accused in the Aircel-Maxis case have been discharged. The CWG case and the Sahara case are still on. In the cases against the Reddy Brothers and Jagan, there have been no major developments since the NDA came to power.

Some other cases, which both the CBI and ED have been probing, include the chit fund scams against former Trinamool leader Mukul Roy and former Congress leader Hrimanta Biswa Sarma. Investigations against both have seen no significant development since these leaders joined the BJP. Similarly, no legal action has been reported against former TDP MP Sujana Chowdhary in a money laundering case associated with bank fraud since he joined the BJP in June.

The PMLA's ambit was increased through amendments in 2009 and 2013, giving the ED the teeth it now has. Its provisions practically make the ED far more powerful than the CBI. It's the only Act in the country where a statement recorded before an investiga-



Running on empty

Roads are deserted, worker colonies empty, eateries shut as Jagan govt halts all work at Naidu's Rs 1.09-crore dream capital city, citing irregularities. SREENIVAS JANYALA on the future of Amaravati, even as the new Andhra govt stalls some other projects

PHOTOGRAPHS: SREENIVAS JANYALA

FOR THE past fortnight, hundreds of 16-wheeler flatbed trucks have been making their way out of Amaravati, carting away tonnes of steel rods, moveable equipment and material. On the six-lane roads going in the opposite direction, neo-rich farmers zip past in their swanky cars, down stretches that once had rows of construction trucks headed in. A workforce of more than 50,000 has left gradually, leaving the workers' colonies empty; all the eateries and hotels are shut; the concrete plants and mixers that once hummed round the clock stand silent; while site offices of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRA) are deserted.

During his 1995-2004 reign, N Chandrababu Naidu had transformed Hyderabad into hi-tech Cyberabad. With that city going to Telangana in the state split, Naidu as CM of the truncated Andhra had promised a new capital city that would be "world-class". To make possible his "Tomorrowland", Naidu had roped in both celebrated Bhubanil architect Rajamouli and famed British architect Foster and Partners, putting their designs through several changes, even as the deadline kept getting pushed.

Now, the frounters in the Assembly polls seem to have put paid to Naidu's Amaravati ambitions.

The signs have been there since YSR Jagan Mohan Reddy came to power. Soon after, the YSRCP government stopped all work on Amaravati. So, from where these tenders are can-



cled. We will take a decision later."

But construction giants like L&T, Shapoorji Pallonji and NCC, with crores staking, are not waiting around. Calling the uncertainty "disappointing", a site in-charge of L&T, which is doing the maximum projects, said condition of anonymity. "The groundwork had been done to build a well-planned capital city, but the new government could have taken it further... We are moving machinery, material and men to other sites outside Andhra. Over 20,000 of our workers and thousands of tonnes of

steel and machinery have already left."

Even the BIP which had an arduous partnership with the TDP and Naidu, has expressed concern. "The lack of coherence on Amaravati and other issues has caused a lot of uncertainty and negative atmosphere in Andhra," says BIP/MPC VLN Narasimha Rao.

Speaking to *The Sunday Express*, Botsa said, "The previous government awarded contracts worth Rs 53,000 crore without any tie-up with any financial institution to fund projects. From where will we get the money? So, for now, these tenders are cancelled," said minister Botsa

complete would continue, while tenders for the rest stood cancelled. With no word on bills worth Rs 8,800 crore owed to construction companies or if the government redesigns through several changes, even as the deadline kept getting pushed.

Amaravati city was meant to come up over 217 sq km, with a core capital area of over 16.94 sq km. Land was acquired over a

laborious 14-month-plus period, through a unique pooling scheme that provided farmers and landowners 800 to 1250 sq yards at within 10-15 minutes walking distance from residential areas, and for all the city's power, telecom and information technology cables to be laid underground.

Foster and Partners, an award-winning British architect team behind iconic structures such as the Imperial War Museum in the UK and Kuwait International Airport, was selected to realise Amaravati. At Naidu's insistence, the architects met S5

Rajamouli of Bhubanil fame to lend their design some "Telugu touches". Even the Naidu government even hired European design and engineering group Dassault Systemes to build a "virtual Amaravati". Speaking at a World Cities Summit in Singapore, Naidu said the virtual simulation model would help monitor air quality and wind direction as well as disaster management. Separately, a Singapore start-up used interactive hologram technology to incorporate citizens' inputs into the Amaravati master plan.

Among the projects that are now 70 per cent complete in the city is housing for the All India Services Officers and MLA/MLCs, while the six-lane access roads to the core capital are fully laid. Besides this, 238 km of 320-km roads in the capital region are under construction.

However, in the core capital area, only 30 per cent of the work is complete. At the Secretariat, meant to comprise one tower of 50 floors and four towers of 40 floors

each, only the raft foundations stand. The Andhra Pradesh High Court, Legislative Complex, and bungalows for bureaucrats and judges are all incomplete.

The Naidu government even hired Engineers Company Ltd (NECL), despite objections by the Centre that is funding the project meant to provide water for irrigation, industry, and drinking purposes to come.

Siva Reddy claimed a "drastic" decline in inquiries for investments and real-estate projects in Vijayawada, Krishna and Guntur. "Buyers and investors wonder whether it would be prudent to put their money here if the capital is not developed further."

The Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (APCIF) president C Sanjivasa Rao echoed Reddy's views. "The ease of doing business has taken a big hit in Andhra. In the last three months, no new investment proposals have come. Entrepreneurs and business men are wary."

Denying this, Industries Minister



(Clockwise from left) The six-lane access road to Amaravati is now largely deserted; the design for the new city, prepared by British architects Foster and Partners, went through several changes; among the projects that were almost complete are the flats for MLA/MLCs and the All India Services Officers



but not go in for further development. "Most likely Amaravati will be just an administrative capital rather than the grand capital city that was envisaged. The government is looking at decentralised development," an official said.

With the government stopping payments to NECL, nearly 20,000 workers have lost jobs, while over Rs 1,000 crore of machinery is lying unused. NECL CEO Satish Agnihotri said machinery and equipment would be moved to their other projects.

Goutham Reddy said, "The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation is receiving lots of proposals. We have started a single-window clearance system and one special officer will be available daily to deal with enquiries." He named sectors such as infrastructure development, education, healthcare, SMEs and marine products as core investment areas.

not to go in for fresh tendering. However, on September 5, the government reiterated its stand.

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Sainur Haque, a labour contractor from Goalpara, Assam, who engaged over 200 workers from Assam, Odisha and Jharkhand at Polavaram, said they had not been paid in three months. "We have diverted many labourers to projects outside the state, but several want to go home for some time and are demanding their wages. Shortly all workers will have to vacate the housing colonies."

Questioning the government's logic, an official previously associated with the Polavaram project said, "The Andhra government has no option but to compensate NECL if it wants to cancel the contract. No other firm will quote the same rates as NECL, which accepted the project at very old rates (of 2004) regarding concrete, earthfill and spillway, just because of the prestige associated with it. The Andhra government will have to lure some company to accept Polavaram at old rates with a promise to allocate another project to it."

A top NECL executive asked which infrastructure firm would agree given the new rule requiring all contracts worth over Rs 100 crore to be first reviewed by a judicial commission.

While refusing to talk about the above concerns, Irrigation Minister P Anil Kumar said the government has till end of October to sort the matter, as work is usually stopped due to monsoon floods in the Godavari.

The Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation has also raised concerns over the Jagan government ordering a review of PPPs (power purchase agreements). In a letter to Chief Secretary L V Subramanyam on June 7, Secretary Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Anand Kumar had said that

canceling or revisiting PPPs was not good for the confidence of investors.

Even Japanese Ambassador to India Kenji Hirashima had written a letter to the CM requesting him not to revisit the PPPs as it would affect investor confidence and growth. Japan has investments in two solar companies in the state.

A Vijayawada-based industrialist, who refused to be named, said there is a pattern to all this. "The thinking in the YSRCP camp is that if Jagan continues to build the capital as was planned by Naidu, then the former CM will take all the credit, and Jagan despises that," said an industrialist

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'Reviewing emeritus status a bid to show regime's muscle'

In an interview to SEEMA CHISHTI, historian ROMILA THAPAR speaks about the row over JNU asking for her CV to review her Professor Emeritus status, laments the state of the university, talks of a "creeping fear" among people in asserting their rights, and says history is more complex than just a past narrative

You have been asked for your CV. As a historian, what does this tell you about the questioners?

Nowhere in the world is an Emeritus Professor ever reconsidered for the status. The status can be negated if the person has committed a crime that embarrasses the university. But the status is not routinely reviewed... Nor is there a quota. Since the post is honorary, the number does not matter at all. It in no way blocks the appointment of more Professors Emeritus.

Further, the demand for re-evaluation by a university committee is a slur on the Centre (JNU's Centre for Historical Studies), since the Centre originally recommended the name.

I am puzzled as to why suddenly in the last few months, the university administration decided to go back on the terms and conditions of the Emeritus as these have existed since the beginning of the university in 1970. To maintain that a changed rule can apply retrospectively shows little understanding of legal systems. The other obvious aspect suggests that this may have been an attempt to show the muscle of the new regime... and reject those who had been honoured earlier.

I have greatly appreciated being an Emeritus Professor at JNU, both because I enjoyed the continuity of exchanging ideas with younger scholars and colleagues as I have always done, and of course I felt close to an institution that I helped found. Those of us who joined the university when it began had a deep commitment to the idea that we as

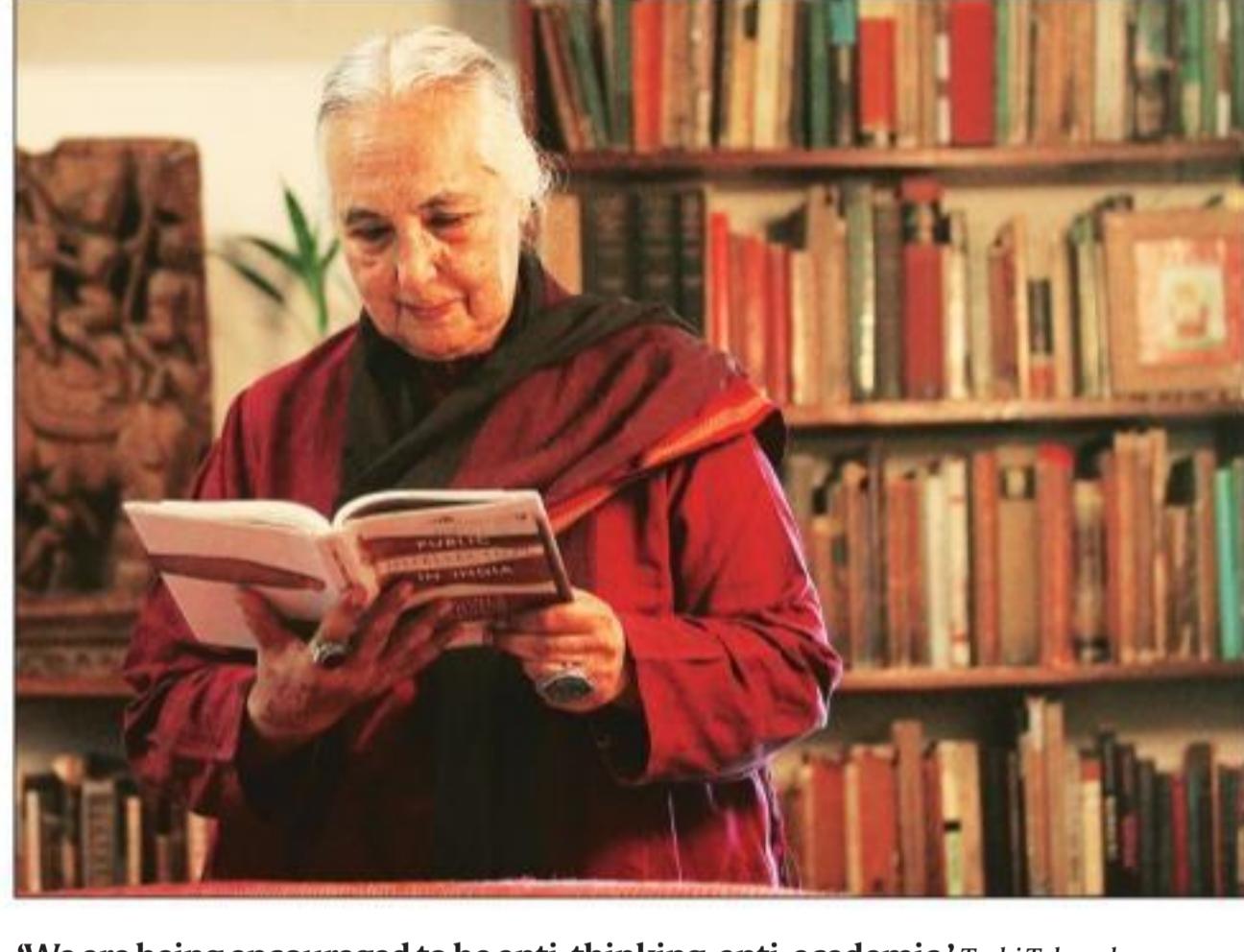
Indians were capable of building a university which would be a world-class university and adhere to all the principles of a great university – free-thinking, free-questioning... To our great delight, we succeeded in doing that. So one can't help but feel that actions like the present one and similar other recent actions, where the administration has asserted itself as being the decision-maker in the university even in academic matters, are largely attempts to undo all that was invested in JNU previously and reduce it to a pedestrian institution of education.

What does the state of Indian universities tell us about the state of the nation?

As a society, we are in a situation where we are being encouraged to be anti-thinking, anti-intellectual, anti-academic. Students are discouraged from asking questions, organising debates and discussions, and expressing opinions in various fora. This is the beginning of undermining what is meant by a university.

The freedom to debate, the freedom to read what you want to read, is essential to a university. I think the kind of thinking behind this last order from the Registrar, and other similar orders, are attempts at trying to assert the authority of those running the university over teachers and students, who form the intellectual core of the university.

This is not just happening at JNU. Why are college teachers, who make a critical two-sentence statement in class, arrested? If they write something on Facebook that is



'We are being encouraged to be anti-thinking, anti-academic.' Tashi Tobgyal

disagreeable to the government, they are picked up. Why is there an attempt to equate the government and nation, which are distinct entities? Surely, a remark that is critical of a government policy is not automatically anti-national.

Maybe we should redefine, and repeat-

edly so, what we mean by saying that we are a democracy. It is said that as a democracy we are in some ways more effective as compared to quite a few other nations that are only theoretical democracies. But when it comes to people asserting their democratic rights, there is now a creeping fear.

Intellectuals and professors are now being seen as the new 'elite'. How do you view this?

I wish we were the elite! What this last JNU episode shows is that academics are far from being the elite since their status is being consistently down-graded by the administration. Yes, intellectualism in a sense is 'elite', but only in societies that respect intellectuals, writers and those who think critically outside the bounds of convention. We are busy these days in describing such people as 'Urban Naxals' and shoving them into jails.

"Intellectualism in a sense is 'elite', but only in societies that respect intellectuals... We are busy in describing them as 'Urban Naxals', and shoving them into jails"

What we really have to caution against is the attitude of anti-intellectualism that is evident in society today. One of the indicators of this is the role of trolling as a form of persuasion – and the more abusive it is, the better it works – keeping in mind the formula of Goebbels that if you tell a lie sufficiently often and effectively, it will be taken as the truth.

Part of the reason for the anti-intellectualism is that people are not encouraged to think about alternatives to better their lives. Making money and acquiring status is not illegitimate, but surely there are other aspects that need nurturing, such as understanding what is meant by creating a humane society and abolishing mob-rule and

lawlessness, by insisting on social justice and social equality. These are the basics of a democratic system.

How do you look at how history is now being written?

History is far more complex than we assume. It is no longer just a narrative about a past event – who won or lost a battle. We are now interested in explaining what were the antecedents to a battle, who actually fought

the battle, for what purpose, who constituted the armies and what was the extended result. When the battle at Haldighati is historically investigated, it becomes evident that Rana Pratap did not win the battle and much more than that is also revealed about who fought on which side and what was the politics involved in the confrontation. These are revelations that the myth-makers prefer to keep under wraps. In any case, there are far more important issues in the study of medieval India than the question of who won the battle of Haldighati. The purpose of emphasising this event is not for reasons of improving our historical understanding of what happened but for using it in current politics.

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'Bachcha chor aa gaya'

In Uttar Pradesh, child-lifting rumours have led to mob violence and 82 arrests. What happens to a village in grip of such rumours? Children stop going to school, parents live in fear and every outsider is a suspect

ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI

AROUND NOON on August 25, Choti Devi, a tailor, was hard at work on her sewing machine, rushing to finish pending orders. Her four children, the eldest nine years old and the youngest three, were sitting around in the one-room house, fiddling with their books and toys.

Just then, there was a knock on the door.

"I was suspicious... scared... My husband would return only in the evening," says the 27-year-old. As she gingerly opened the door, she saw a woman in worn-out clothes and frazzled hair. "She told me, 'Do you have children?... Give them these biscuits'."

That was it — Devi's worst fears had come true. "Bachche churane waali ab hamare gaon mein aag gayi" (The child lifter had now come to our village). I began to scream and warned my children not to step out. All the WhatsApp messages I had been receiving for the past weeks had warned me against this. My children had not been going to school for at least a week. I didn't want to lose them," she says, standing outside her house, one of 38 rooms in a building at Echar village in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida area that mostly houses security guards, labourers, tailors and their families. "And, this woman particularly resembled one of the two women whose picture I had got recently," says Devi, whose husband has a "company job".

She then pulls out her Samsung smartphone, the one she bought for Rs 6,000 earlier this year, to show a picture her sister-in-law had sent her. It is a grainy selfie of two women, one in her 50s and the other in her late 30s. The older woman has her head covered with a dupatta, while the younger one has a thick line of vermillion on her head.

A message accompanied the picture: "Ye do ladies ke photos jitna ho sake share karo. Ye school, mohalle ke bahar se chote bachchon ko kidnap kar taskari karti hain [Share this picture as much as possible. They kidnap little children from neighbourhoods and schools and smuggle them]."

"The woman who came with the biscuits looked like the older one," says Devi, over a week after the incident.

Later, the alleged child lifter was reportedly beaten up by residents and handed over to the police. "We just held on to her till the police came, we didn't beat her... We were a group of 15-20 women, we were all crying," says Devi.

However, when Sub-Inspector Naseem Ahmed from Echar Police Station investigated the case, it turned out that the 'child lifter' was in fact a "mentally unstable woman who had strayed from her family". The family is from Nepal but they worked in Ghaziabad. When we realised she was mentally unstable, I took her to the women's cell in Meerut and put out her pictures in newspapers. That is how we tracked her family. They have returned to Nepal now," he says. "No one has been kidnapped in the Greater Noida area," he adds.

In the past month, fuelled by fake messages and morphed videos, photographs and undated newspaper clippings on WhatsApp and Facebook, rumours about child kidnappers have led to panic in pockets of Uttar Pradesh, the National Capital Region, and Delhi, and also led to incidents of mob violence in many cases. In almost all instances,

who have by now gathered around her, nod in agreement.

One of them is Chandrakala, 32, who has just picked up her child from school. As her son, a Class 1 student, hides behind her, she says, "Their school is close by. But for the past few weeks, I have been picking and dropping them. I made them stay at home for a few days, but for how long could I have done that?"

But Mohd Naushad Ali, 30, isn't taking chances. He had got his daughter admitted to Nursery earlier this year, but recently withdrew her admission. "She can start the session next year. *Mahaul baahut kharaab ho gaya hai abhi* (The situation is very bad now). They are children, they get lured by toffees, biscuits. They don't understand the danger," he says, holding his four-year-old in his arm.

Apart from the videos and messages, what stoked Ali and Chandrakala's fears was an audio message that they received on WhatsApp, which had a man narrating a kidnapping incident. "He also said that the kidnappers pulled out children's organs and sold them," says Chandrakala.

A few metres away, at the Chandrakanta School that has 450 students across Classes Nursery to 8, principal Saurabh Kumar says they have become more alert following the rumours. "When classes end, we get teachers to stand at the gates to ensure that no one apart from the parents speaks to the children. We have also asked all parents to pick and drop their children. If a parent fails to come, teachers drop the child home," he says, sitting in his office in a run-down building.

While he admits there has been no case of kidnapping, he adds, "I can't take a chance. We have told children, *seedhe jao, seedhe aao* (Come straight to school, and straight home)." "The other day I saw a beggar roaming near the school. I told her to leave. I knew she was not a kidnapper, but people could have mistaken her for one," he says, while insisting that the incident "has not affected attendance much".

Twenty-five kilometres away, in Bhatta village, Navjeet Singh, who stands in for his sarpanch wife Umesh Devi, has been struggling to quell the child-lifting rumours. Over the past week, his village WhatsApp group, 'Jat Group', has been flooded with videos and messages of child-lifting rumours. "*Sab South se hee aa rahein hain* (All these messages are coming from the south of India). We don't know how to stop them," he says.

Singh says some of the youth in his village are using the rumours to "trick their parents".

"The young men in the village don't want to work in the fields. Recently, a 15-year-old son of a farm labourer consumed some drugs and passed out. When he woke up and went home, he lied to his family that two bearded men had forced him to inhale something and tried to kidnap him," he says, adding, "There has not been a single case of kidnapping."

Singh has another argument, "All the rumours are circulating in places where the poor live. But who wants to kidnap children of the poor? What will they get? If there were real kidnappers roaming around, they would have eyed the kids of the rich, wouldn't they have?"

Back in Echar village, with rumours swirling, both online and offline, Devi's children are nagging their mother to let them go out to play. "No way. *Abhi nahin* (Not now)," she says, ushering them back into her room.



In Greater Noida's Echar village, residents received a WhatsApp message asking housewives not to open their doors to strangers. Gajendra Yadav

no child has been found to be kidnapped.

On August 29, Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police O P Singh warned that the National Security Act would be invoked against rumour-mongers, 82 of whom have been arrested by the state police so far.

Gautam Buddha Nagar Superintendent of Police Vineet Jaishwal, under whose jurisdiction Noida-Greater Noida falls, admits the rumours have been a concern. "In all the cases that have been reported to us, no one's child has been kidnapped. We have already started drives to spread awareness. We are using loudspeakers to inform residents that these are just rumours. We have also reached out to village heads. There have been arrests of rumour-mongers too," he said. There have been at least 10 incidents of mob attacks and commotion over child-lifting rumours in the past fortnight in the Noida-Greater Noida region.

"After class, we get teachers to stand at gates to ensure that only parents speak to the children. If a parent fails to pick up her child, we get teachers to drop them home"

Apne bachchon ka dhyaan rakhein... (Housewives are requested not to open their doors to strangers such as scrap collectors, vendors, godmen and beggars, and never say, 'There is no one at home'. Protect your children).

That message, says 46-year-old security guard Raju Kumar, was widely shared on WhatsApp later and went on to state that "a group of 500 men and women are out on the prowl for small children". That is when, he says, most women stopped sending their children, at least the younger ones, to school. "I have now opted for night shifts so that I am home during the day," says Kumar, who has two

teenaged children.

His 15-year-old son Ankit Kumar promptly pulls out his phone to show a newspaper clipping that has a photograph of a godman with the headline: "*Kasba Elam mein sadhu ke wesh mein aaye the apharankarta* (In Elam hamlet, kidnappers had come dressed as godmen)".

"This message came two weeks ago. I shared it with everyone," says the teenager, sitting on a parked bike and scrolling rapidly through his phone.

Devi, who is standing nearby, jumps at the mention of the message. "Hadn't a similar man come to our building too?" she says. "I was washing clothes outside, and my children were alone in the room. A man dressed in saffron clothes kept knocking on our door. I rushed in and told him to leave... I also alerted everyone about him. *Bachcha chor tha* (He was a child lifter)," she says as the other residents,

Room for 3,000: Post-NRC Assam's brand-new 'jail'

Built as per Centre's norms, the exclusive facility to house 'illegal foreigners' to be ready by end of year

ABHISHEK SAHA

WHILE UNCERTAINTY hangs over Assam's newly declared final National Register of Citizens (NRC), for the past eight months, work has been on at a steady pace to build what would be the state's first exclusive detention centre to house people declared as 'illegal foreigners' — a category into which people out of the list who don't find reprieve at Foreigners' Tribunals would eventually fall.

On 20 bighas of land in Matia in Goalpara district, nestled between farmland and forest, at least 15 contractors and 450-500 labourers are at work to build the centre at a budget of over Rs 46 crore, with a capacity to house "up to 3,000 illegal foreigners". Construction began last December and is expected to be completed by this year end. The facility will be enclosed within two walls, the first one 6-ft high and the second 20 ft.

In a reply in the Assembly in July, the Assam government had said it had sent a proposal for 10 such new facilities to the Centre, and was waiting for a response. Assam currently has six detention cen-

Construction is going on in full swing. We are trying level best to meet the target deadline"

A K JHA, CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, ASSAM POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION

tres to hold 'illegal foreigners', but these are all located inside jails. Together they house 1,000-odd detainees, in conditions which have been deplored by activists. As per a state government reply in the Assembly, FTs declared 1.03 lakh people foreigners between 1985 and August 2018. This number is expected to swell now after the final NRC.

The detention centre at Matia, around 150 km from Guwahati, is being built as per guidelines laid down by the Centre and circulated in January 2019. A senior Assam government officer, who refused to be named, said, "The guidelines mention numerous points like a facility having a space to play, a school, etc. All that is being followed."

Talking about the "guidelines" in the Rajya



Construction of the centre, over 20 bighas, in Matia, Goalpara. Abhishek Saha

Sabha on July 24, Union Minister of State for Home, Nitin Gadkari, had said, "With a view to formalise the setting up of detention/holding centres in States/U.T.s for restricting the movement of illegal immigrants/foreign nationals awaiting deportation, the Government has prepared a Model Detention Centre

Manual... The Manual covers amenities to be provided... for the inmates to maintain standards of living in consonance with basic human needs. This includes amenities like electricity, drinking water, toilets/baths with running water, communication facilities, provision for kitchen."

As per the manual, members of the same family would be kept at the same centre, there would be segregated accommodation for male and female detainees, as well as special facilities for nursing mothers.

A K Jha, Chairman and Managing Director of the Assam Police Housing Corporation, which is executing the construction, told *The Sunday Express*, "Construction is going on in full swing. We are trying level best to meet the target deadline."

Rabindra Kumar Das, a junior engineer at the Matia construction site, said the detention centre plan includes a primary school, a hospital, and a separate water supply system with a capacity of over 50,000 litres. "For detainees, there will be 15 four-storey buildings... The construction would have been almost complete if it had not rained. We are aiming now for the end of this year."

Apart from detention centres, the Assam government is trying to ready 200 new FTs to meet the post-NRC rush, to add to the existing 100 tribunals. The locations of the new tribunals have been decided, in either existing government establishments or newly hired ones. The panel of 221 to be appointed as Members at these FTs will undergo training till the appeal processes start.

Assam's Commissioner and Secretary (Home and Political) Department Ashutosh

Agnihotri said, "We are ready with the system and infrastructure for the filing of appeals. However, appeals can only be filed after the NRC authorities issue exclusion/rejection orders." The NRC hasn't specified when the excluded people would receive the rejection orders.

Ruing "the lack of data from the NRC office", an officer said, "We do not know the district or circle-wise break up of the excluded people. Thus, we do not know in which district or circle of a district we should perhaps put two instead of one new FT."

A few metres down from the Matia detention facility itself, lies a refugee settlement. It houses Bengali Hindus, and Hajong and Dalus, whose ancestors had fled from then East Pakistan in the 1960s.

Pratima Biswas, 30, a Bengali, was among the 19 lakh people not in the NRC released on August 31, though her parents, siblings, three children and husband, who works as a daily wager, are in. Her neighbour Saraswati Hajong, 36, is also out, unlike her two sisters, husband, mother-in-law and two sons.

Says Biswas, with a wry smile, "We women often joke amongst ourselves that we might be one day taken to the detention camp next door... We have to fight our case at an FT now, and fight we will. How dare they call us *bideshis* (foreigners)?"

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PRE-CENSUS ENUMERATOR



Counting 135,00,00,000

Process has begun for world's largest head-count — India's decennial Census. Armed with a mobile app and 36 questions, as the foot-soldiers try to iron out wrinkles, suspicious respondents the biggest hurdle

AMITAVA CHAKRABORTY

THE LATEST estimate by the United Nations puts India's population at 135 crore, catching up to China as the world's most populous country. In his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the "population explosion" a matter of urgent concern. Against this backdrop, India has begun preparations for what is one of the world's largest head-count exercises — its decennial Census.

Between February 9 and 28, 2021, India will count all its people. But so as to ensure that there are no hiccups, one-and-a-half years ahead of it, a pre-census began last month. The August 12-September 30 exercise is being conducted at select spots in all the states and Union territories.

One of those enlisted for it is Naveen Shokeen, 31, a Computer Science teacher at Government Boys' Senior Secondary School (GBSSS) in Ghummanhera, a village on the Delhi-Haryana border. Around 2.30 pm, his school duty having come to an end, Shokeen is standing in the room of Vice-Principal/Headmaster Prem Kumar Jha, the designated "charge-officer" of the pre-test, waiting for instructions. Shokeen hasn't had lunch, and decides against a quick bite.

Shokeen along with seven teachers of GBSSS, Ghummanhera, and four from a neighbouring public girls' school, will today collect 'House Listing (HL)' data across 10 Census blocks of the Ghummanhera village. The data will include information on types of houses as well as the facilities they have, like LPG connection, dish antenna etc. A Census official says Ghummanhera was an obvious choice as it has "10 blocks as well as slum areas", as required by the guidelines.

In Delhi, the trial run is also being conducted in all the 67 Census blocks of



(Top) Shrikrishna Sharma, left, during pre-test in Vikaspuri; (above) Naveen Shokeen on his round. Amitava Chakraborty

Vikaspuri, a residential locality in North Delhi, as the guidelines also call for an "urban" block. Here the pre-test is being carried out by teachers of GBSSS, Vikaspuri.

It's mostly principals who pick the teachers for Census duty, and the latter get a remuneration for the work.

After the briefing by Jha, Shokeen hurries to Ghummanhera, just 200 metres away. As he enters a three-storey house, one of the few such buildings in the area, Shokeen says, "I have finished surveying most of the houses allotted to me. Only those found locked during the survey are left."

As a resident opens the door, Shokeen flashes his Census identity card. "Janaganan vibhag se aye hain. Aapke makan ke baarey mein jaankari chahiye (I have come from the Census Department. I want information about your house)," he says.

Shokeen has a list of 34 questions, includ-

ing on the construction material of the house, and its water and energy sources. He notes the answers down in a voluminous booklet. Most of the questions have remained the same over the decade. The one major change this year is the development of a mobile application that enumerators like Shokeen are expected to use to note the details.

More than 90 per cent of the enumerators for the pre-test have registered for data collection through their own mobile devices.

However, Shokeen says he prefers taking down the answers in the booklet provided by the Census Department, and uploading them later. One of his fears is the leak of personal information of a respondent. However, he admits the duplication slows down the process.

Harjit Singh Mendiratta, a 'Master Trainer' with the Directorate of Census Operations, who has been training teachers at GBSSS Ghummanhera, admits the teething problems with the app. "The pre-test helps us get a sense of the difficulties we might face," he says. "When we plan the Census, we know which blocks could end up taking more time. Secondly, it helps us categorise a property as *kachcha, pucca, jhuggi*, residential, non-residential, etc."

After the pre-test on collection of House Listing data gets over on September 4, a trial of the Population Enumeration (PE) basics would be conducted between September 10 and September 30. The PE is a more elaborate exercise as it involves collecting detailed information of each family member.

Detailing the problems they face, Jha says, "Some houses are locked whenever we visit them during the day. As a result, we have to visit early in the morning. Often we have to take the help of neighbours and local leaders as respondents refuse to give information."

In the evening, even as Shokeen is nearing the end of his rounds, over at Vikaspuri, 36-year-old Srikrishna Sharma, a Sanskrit teacher at GBSSS, is getting ready to begin his.

Tired, Sharma says he will keep it short.

"The density of houses as well as people is much higher in urban pockets. So we take more time to cover a specific area," a perspiring Sharma says, climbing up a flight of stairs in a DDA building in Vikaspuri's JG block.

Plus Sharma faces the same problems as Shokeen. "Urban households mostly have children at home in the afternoon. If someone is below 18 years, we cannot note their response. But often the adults too behave like children."

At such times, having 'Master Trainers' around, like SK Sood and Pramod Kumar today, helps. Sharma is flanked by both as he rings the bell to a second-floor flat. As the woman who answers looks uncertain about the purpose of his visit, Sood and Kumar, with 'Ministry of Home Affairs' identity cards hanging around their necks, weigh in. Sharma wastes no time, and opens the booklet instead of the mobile to take down answers.

Sharma has a different reason for not using the app. "I realised that the moment I took out my phone, people became apprehensive and stopped answering. Somehow, people don't trust phones... The booklet appears to be much more authentic to them."

Sharma next moves to the adjacent flat. The woman who answers speaks through a mesh door, and ignoring Sharma's pleadings, slams the door. Sighs Sharma, "People refuse to answer because of the lack of awareness. The government must educate people on the importance of the Census, pre-test... Many people tell us they have not seen any advertisement or read news reports on the same."

It takes Sharma about an hour to go through just three flats in the building.

Says a senior Census officer acquainted with the survey, "I have learnt that both the rich and poor don't want to share personal details. The poor because they don't care. And the rich because they are concerned their personal information might be stolen."

Looking for Cong in Chanasma

BJP claims all voters in this Gujarat town are now its members. Congress protests, feebly



Some Cong supporters before the Executive Magistrate's office. Javed Raja

PARIMAL DABHI

SITTING at his office in Chanasma GIDC (Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation) zone, Rajul Patel (52) is holding meetings with local Congress workers. Amidst dwindling Congress numbers in this BJP bastion, his is a difficult job — rendered even more arduous since national BJP working president J P Nadda declared recently that all registered voters in Chanasma had enrolled as primary members of the saffron party.

That is 10,600 people.

While Nadda's claim of 100 per cent enrolment is most certainly an exaggeration, Patel, the Congress's Chanasma tehsil president, knows he has little to be happy about. The recent entrants to the BJP include district Congress president Praful Vyas, who crossed over with 50 supporters around two months ago.

Chanasma used to be part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home district Mehsana, but now falls under Patan. Dominated by Patidars, followed by Dalits and Thakors, the town, with a population of around 16,000, was declared a municipality in 1996.

However, since the declaration, the Congress has only once fought the municipal elections on its own symbol, in February 2016. It won two seats, against 22 for the BJP.

"The BJP's claim of all registered voters having enrolled as its party members is completely baseless. However, I must admit that the Congress presence in the town is poor. For example, when the Congress decided to field candidates for the municipal polls in February 2016, we found it difficult to even find 24 nominees. We had to personally approach people and assure them that we will help them out during campaigning," says Patel.

The 52-year-old, who has been with the Congress since 30 years, reasons, "Chanasma is traditionally a BJP bastion, the RSS has a strong presence here. For more than 25 years, the BJP has been in power in Gujarat. So people join the party if they have electoral ambition... Only those who strongly believe in the ideology of the Congress join or stay in the party."

Standing in front of the local Executive Magistrate's office in the Mambaldar Office Area, a prominent landmark in the town, Patel hails down Congress workers Varun Vyas, Nikunj Dave, Ramesh Desai and Dr Viram Oza to show that Nadda isn't right in clubbing all Chanasma voters as BJP supporters. "Meet these people, they are our

men. They are working to make the Congress strong here," he says.

Agree Vyas, a 35-year-old farmer, "In the recent Lok Sabha elections, the Congress candidate (Jagdish Thakor) got around 2,500 votes out of the 7,000 odd cast in the 14 booths of Chanasma. The BJP candidate (Bharatsinh Dabhi) received about 4,500 votes. Does this not prove that we have a presence here?"

However, even he admits that the party's local leadership is finding it extremely difficult to keep up the morale of workers and supporters. "We keep meeting and asking people about their needs. At the same time, we also stay firm against any attempt by the BJP to lure our workers," he says.

Oza, 74, believes that it is an uphill battle given the funds crunch ailing the Congress not just in Chanasma but across the country. "Unlike the Congress, the BJP helps its workers financially. In the absence of such a system, there is lack of discipline and consistency among workers."

He adds that committed senior members like him have helped the Congress's Chanasma unit even financially to sustain the party's organisational structure and keep it relevant. "To keep the organisation vibrant, we motivate young workers to conduct programmes in the town," Oza says.

Still, the Congress held its last public meeting in Chanasma way back during the Lok Sabha polls, when senior party leader Siddharth Patel addressed a gathering.

Satish Parmar (55), an LIC agent, wishes the Congress would raise problems of Dalits like himself, pointing out that the community has traditionally been a supporter of the party. "There are hygiene-related issues in our locality. The gutters overflow during the monsoons. The Congress should publicly flag such issues. I also want the party to raise the issue of atrocities against Dalits in various parts of the country."

Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee leader and Patan district in-charge Kirtisinh Zala insists they are talking about the problems of the people, and that the situation in Chanasma is changing. "The town is dominated by Patidars, who have been loyal to the BJP. But we are drawing people's attention to issues such as unemployment and economic slowdown," he says.

Meanwhile, Patel talks of BJP workers approaching him, "regularly", with offers to join the saffron party. That might definitely mean the end of the Congress in Chanasma, he says. "By getting me and my supporters, they want to wipe off the Congress here."



SAEED AKHTAR MIRZA

I AM AT Mumbai airport waiting to take my flight to Ahmedabad. Since I have arrived very early I settle down and begin reading a book that I have brought along. As I read, I hear a voice call out my name.

"Excuse me, are you Mr Saeed Mirza?"

I look up to see a tall young man staring down at me enquiringly. As he adjusts the backpack over his grey T-shirt notice he has a kind of gaunt face and long curly hair. I am surprised by the seriousness of his face... it seems strange on a man so obviously young. I also notice he is wearing slacks that are an incredible electric blue. As I try to take in all this information about the man, his voice interrupts my thoughts.

"Are you?" he asks again and this time I recover and nod. The young man breaks into a wide smile which lightens up his serious face and I smile too.

"Sir, I am a big fan of yours... I have seen most of your films... some documentaries, one of your travelogues across India... and I have even read two of your books..."

The young man's smile widens.
"Big fan..." he adds.
"Thankyou," I reply. "And what do you do?"

"Sir, I am a painter. I came to check things out in Mumbai and now I am going back home."

"Why don't you sit down?"

The young man does so and for the next 10 minutes he tells me everything about himself. He is 23 years old and from Udaipur. He took to painting early in life encouraged by his parents and despite the tremendous odds today he has almost made it. It was tough going for a young dreamer in a small town but the struggle was worth it.

"I just got Rs 14 lakh for one painting and I am elated... It was bought by a group of buyers in Europe and they have encouraged me to carry on. It must be some record for a painter like me who is just starting out... isn't it?"

I smile and nod as he continues about his sojourn in Mumbai.

"I felt so happy so I came to Mumbai to meet the famous art gallery owners... to check them out... but they put me off..."

"Why?"

"They told me that I am too ambitious... I should create smaller works, not large ones... that is how young painters start... start small and then grow... I don't

agree. I will paint the way I want to... nobody has the right to tell me what size my paintings should be... am I right?"

I like his robust attitude and say, "I agree. Paint the way you want to."

"Thank you sir... they think they are big shots... just because they own galleries in Mumbai... so I have rejected them. In three days I made the rounds of all the galleries and I spent the rest of the week travelling from Colaba to the Prithvi Theatre in Juhu and saw plays... met some wonderful people... now I am going back... would you like to see some of my work... on my phone..."

I hesitate a bit and then nod. As soon as I do so he whips out his mobile phone and begins showing me his paintings and adds a running commentary that describes his work... "I don't agree with realism... I prefer the abstract... I like the work of Ram Kumar... Akbar Padamsee... abstract work is much more free... so much is left to the imagination... which painters do you like?"

As I view the rapidly changing images I say,

"Well... quite a few... let me see... I like the works of Sudhir Patwardhan, Tyeb Mehta, Atul Dodiya, Nalini Malani, Ghulam Sheikh... lots of different kinds of painters..."

"Do you like the works of Ram Kumar and Akbar Padamsee?"

"Of course I do."

"Do you like my work?"

I stop looking at the paintings and look at the young man. I realise he is serious about knowing my opinion. So I say,

"Can I see the work once again..."

I go over his work slowly this time and with each piece of work I tell him what I feel... the ones that I like and the ones I have problems with. In fact, there are two works that I find quite remarkable and the young man tells me that they have already been booked by the same group in Europe that had bought his earlier painting. I smile.

"You have some ready buyers... you must be a very happy man..."

"I am... really..."

Then slowly his face turns serious.

"But today I am not."

I am surprised

"Why?" I ask.

"Haven't you read the newspapers this morning?"

"Why do you ask?"

"Look what the government has done about Kashmir..."

I realise that he is talking about the revoking of Article 370 by the government of India. It was announced in Parliament yesterday (on August 6) and the headlines in the newspapers had been euphoric. There were numerous reports of rejoicing all around the country. I look at the

young man silently... he seems to be in deep thought and then he began to speak very softly.

"Most of the people in our country are so happy... shouldn't I be happy too? But I am not. I know this is a democracy and the will of the people matters... if there was a vote now, 90 per cent of the people of India would say they agree with the decision... but... we didn't ask the people to whom this decision matters most... the Kashmiris... are they not Indians... does their opinion not matter?"

The young man turns to look at me in anguish and I keep silent. Then he says softly,

"Sometimes democracy can be ugly... today I am sad... and confused... is it okay to be this way..."

I smile and put my hand on his shoulder.

"It's absolutely okay to be this way... you are not just a painter... you are an artist."

He smiles too. Just then I am informed that my flight is ready to depart. I get up and wish him goodbye. I slowly make my way towards the gate and as I do so I turn to look at the young man one more time. He is looking at me so I wave to him and he waves back.

The writer is a filmmaker, writer, traveller and thinker

FIFTH COLUMN



TAVLEEN SINGH

Hindutva in modern India

ON THE day that we sought to become the fourth country in the world to land a spacecraft on the moon it depressed me hugely to read this story about cows in a Mumbai newspaper. "Breeding female cows will help end lynching: Giriraj", said the headline. The story that followed said the Minister for Animal Husbandry, Giriraj Singh, told reporters that the Government of India was working on a scheme to artificially inseminate cows to ensure that mostly female calves were born. The minister believes this will persuade cattle farmers to stop abandoning their animals and this will help reduce lynchings. Does the Minister of Animal Husbandry not know that it is not on account of stray cattle that Muslims and Dalits have been lynched with disturbing frequency in recent years?

Muslim dairy farmers have been attacked while transporting their own cows, not stray cattle. And, Dalits have been attacked when caught skinning dead cows to provide raw material to leather, pharmaceutical and related industries. The lynching epidemic has forced dairy farmers to abandon old cows instead of selling them for slaughter, and it is this that has caused numbers of stray cattle to grow alarmingly. In states like Uttar Pradesh, they now roam in packs and have become feral. An old lady was killed by a cow recently and the video of this killing was uploaded. In states across northern India gangs of wild cows have started ravaging crops. The menace is so serious that farmers are forced to waste their meagre earnings on fencing their fields. What really depressed me about the minister's comments was that they reminded me that this obsession with protecting cows has caused primitive hatreds and hideous violence to rise to the surface in our dear motherland. And, this makes a very bad fit with our lunar dreams.

In this column I have often blamed cow vigilantes on Hindutva. I was wrong. Last week, I read two biographies of the father of Hindutva, Vinayak Savarkar, and discovered that one of the things he disapproved of totally was cow worship. Let me use Savarkar's own words as quoted by Vikram Sampath in his biography. "The symbol of Hindutva is not the cow but the man-lion or Narasimha... considering the cow to be divine and worshipping her has rendered the entire Hindu nation docile like the cow."

From the two biographies I read of the revolutionary that the Congress party erased from our history books, I discovered that I was completely wrong about Hindutva. Instead of being an ideology akin to Nazism, as the prime minister of our neighbouring Islamic Republic believes, it is an ideology of Hindu reform. Savarkar rejects the caste system and makes a serious case for Hindus to respect science and modern technology. He is scathing not just about Gandhiji's attempts to blame the Bihar earthquake on untouchability but also about the Shankaracharya saying that it happened because of attempts to end the caste system.

Having grown up believing that Hindutva was a dangerous, divisive ideology, I find myself surprised at how important an idea it could be for our times. Savarkar was no fan of the RSS but since the BJP's mothership has huge influence in today's India, it is my sincere hope that Mohan Bhagwat finds time to read the two biographies I just finished reading. He may discover that what India needs to

build on is the very enlightened view of Hindutva that Savarkar evolved in the long years he spent in prison. On days of dark despair in his tiny cell in Port Blair's notorious Cellular Jail, he used thorns and whatever else he could find to write his thoughts on the walls. He was denied books, paper and ink and spent months in solitary confinement.

It is true that he was unsympathetic to Muslims, but he would have disapproved of them being killed on the excuse of saving cows. He would have approved proudly of India trying to enter her name in the small list of countries which have dared to explore the unknown frontiers of outer space. At the risk of invoking the wrath of secular trolls, I am going to say that I believe his ideas of modernity and cultivating the scientific spirit make him more relevant today than Gandhiji.

The Mahatma was a very great man, so I speak with respect, but it is hard not to admit that some of his ideas were obscurantist to the point of being dangerous. Had they been acted upon, India would today have been pacifist enough to be fully vulnerable once more to be invaded by people with only contempt for her ancient heritage, her wise religions and her vast contribution to civilisation. Even as we keep our eyes on the moon this week, we must not take them too far away from the Islamic Republic next door.

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Building Begumpura

GAINED IN TRANSLATION



BALBIR MADHOPURI

बलबीर माधोपुरी

COMPOSED BY Guru Ravidas, 40 poems set to 16 ragas are a part of the Guru Granth Sahib. Many verses written by him are available outside of it, and imbued with the idea of god and *nirgun* (formless) *darshan*. His *bani* (poetic compositions), a powerful voice against untouchability, caste and social injustice, has long been a source of ratiocination for the downtrodden to drive social change. In his attempt to sensitise people through his verses, Ravidas held caste discrimination as a mental disease at the root of all social strife. He also held forth the idea of one god as the creator of the universe.

Jaat-paat ke pher mah urjhai rahe sabh log/Mannukhita kuh khat hai Ravidas/jat ka rog (Everyone is trapped in the caste-system/ Ravidas, humanity is being eaten up by the disease called caste) and; *Ravidas ek Brahma ka hoy rahu sagal pasar/Ek mati sab ghat sirjai eike sab kou sanjanhar* (All are made from the same clay, by the same creator).

In fact, Guru Ravidas, along with his contemporaries, launched a campaign using *satsangs* for a more equal society. Kabir and other saint-poets joined him. He gave a voice to the voiceless and made weavers, cobblers, barbers, butchers, washermen and others from the artisan community part of this wave. Sant Ravidas used language that avoided hyperbole and was easily understood by the common folk. This is the reason his poetry became a weapon in the fight for equality. His people-friendly verses like *Man changa tan khatot vich Ganga* (If the mind is pure, then Ganga flows in the small earthen pot) is part of lexicon.

As he took his writings to the far corners of a multi-religious country, Guru Ravidas told people to see Ram and Rahim, Krishna and Karim as one. He put forth his views about Hindu-Muslim unity.

Mandir Masjid duo ek hai, eh ma antar nahi/Ravidas Ram-Rehman ka jhagra koyi nahi (The temple and the mosque are one. There is no difference between the two. Ravidas says that there is no dispute between Ram and Rehman.)

Six centuries ago, Guru Ravidas held in his heart a pious desire to create a society where no one faced discrimination on the basis of caste, gender, social and economic status; where people would pay no taxes and enjoy the freedom to freely migrate to the places of their choice. He envisioned a society with people living in harmony with-



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

out any sort of discrimination. He named this ideal society "Begumpur" (a place with no pain)". *Ashabat* gives a detailed description of this in Guru Granth Sahib:

*The regal real with the sorrowless name:
They call it Begumpura, a place with no pain/
No taxes or cares, nor own property
there/ No wrongdoing, worry, terror or torture/
Oh my brother, I've come to take it as my own/
My distant home, where everything is right/
That imperial kingdom is rich and secure/
Where none are third or second—all are
all its food and drink are famous, and those
who live there/ Dwell in satisfaction and in wealth/
They do this or that; they walk where they
they wish/ They stroll through fabled places
unchallenged/ Oh, says Ravidas, a tanner now
set free/ Those who walk beside me are my
friends. (Hawley and Juergensmeyer, 32.)*

Guru Ravidas praised work done by hand and gave it a special place in his writings. Colouring leather, shoemaking tools, his caste are mentioned with pride. In his poems, he presented his vision for a world with a democratic and socialistic set-up.

*Aisa chahan raaj main, jahan miley sabhan ko ann/ Chote-barai sabh sum basai,
Ravidas rahai parsan/I want a regime where everybody has food/ Ravidas will be happy
to see a country where there is no discrimination
between lower and upper classes).*

Considering this, many Sikh scholars call Bhagat Bani within Guru Granth Sahib a Dalit text. In their opinion, Guru Nanak Dev changed the entire Bahluk tradition into a formidable wave. Sikh scholar Jaswant Singh Zafar in his book *Bhagat Satguru Hamara* has argued that Guru Arjan Dev, who compiled Guru Granth Sahib, considered Ravidas Bani a source of inspiration. He, like Guru Ramdas, praised his writings in his Bani, which is recorded in pages 1,207 and 835 of the Guru Granth Sahib.

It is also important to reflect on the reality of how the Ravidas community rediscovered this radical saint and how it once again attained a social revival. It goes back to June 11 or 12 in 1926 when Gadar Party revolutionary Mangal Ram established 'Adi

Dwarsa where the Adi Prakash Granth – which has 1,248 pages – is kept for worship.

Different historical places linked to Guru Ravidas have been identified and commemorative structures built there by those managing Adi Dharam's affairs.

Among these, Guru Ravidas Janam Sthan Mandir, in Kashi, Uttar Pradesh, is the most prominent. It is believed that Guru Ravidas was born near this city in the 14th century.

Guru Ravidas's social consciousness is enunciated best through his lines *Maati ka putra kaise nachta hai/Dekhe, deke, sune, bole, dauria phirat hai* (How does the puppet of clay dance. He looks and listens, hears and speaks, and runs around).

This verse carries a deep meaning. While it warns an individual against being unjust, it also inspires him to do good. In another verse – *Satsangati mil rahiye madho jaise madhup makhira* (Always stick together in prayer like honey bees) – he asks the Dalits to band together like bees in a hive. And if someone points a figure at you, then fight back as one to protect yourself.

Madhopuri is a Punjabi poet and director, Punjabi Sahit Sabha Translated from Punjabi by Saurabh Kapoor

Kashmir: What now?

without bringing any charges and put Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, Abdullah's deputy, as prime minister of J&K.

Whatever sweet words Nehru may have used in his promise to the people of Kashmir that he would honour their special status ended in that moment in 1953. Soon, the 'prime minister' of J&K became 'chief minister' as in rest of India, and the Sadar-i-Riyasat became the governor appointed from New Delhi.

Sheikh Abdullah was never tried but kept under house arrest. Abdullah was just as arbitrarily released and then Indira Gandhi gifted him and his heirs and successors the proprietorship of J&K. The more the powers were taken away from the J&K Assembly, the more

fervent was the cry from the Congress that J&K as a Muslim-majority autonomous province (and not the Muslims elsewhere in India) was a proof of India's secularism.

After 1989, when the Taliban and related Islamist terror organisations poured in from across the border, J&K was ethnically cleansed of Pandits as New Delhi watched. After that, the Indian Army became a permanent feature of the land. As did the separatist movement.

The last 30 years have been fed by several delusions. India pretended when it suited it that J&K was sovereign and MPs needed special permission to visit it. For no other state were Internet and mobile telephone connections shut when the

Prime Minister visited, except in J&K. Kashmir was and was not a part of India; it was and was not autonomous. It was the only state where between 40,000 and 50,000 people, local and infiltrators, have been killed in the last 30 years.

On 5/6 August, there came legal clarity. The steady de facto erosion of political autonomy for J&K has been ended. The Line of Control is now an international border between India and Pakistan. The partition of India is at long last complete.

Now what?

First, the urgent restoration of normalcy, such as it was, before August. Kashmir may no longer be a bilateral issue but it is a global concern. Every day of delay makes the move look more sin-

ister both in Kashmir and around the world. Relax the curfew and face the riots. There is no point in waiting for the day when the curfew can be relaxed without angry reactions. The anger in Kashmir Valley has a long history. To expect it to die due to a constitutional change would be a delusion. It would require concrete policy changes in economic and social sectors to heal



Pope Francis on Saturday, September 7.

MADAGASCAR
‘Deforestation must be seen as global threat’

Antanarivo: Pope Francis denounced the illegal logging and exploitation of Madagascar’s unique natural resources Saturday as he opened a visit to the Indian Ocean nation with a plea for the government to fight the corruption that is ravaging the island’s environment and keeping its people in “inhumane poverty”. “The deterioration of that biodiversity compromises the future of the country and of the earth, our common home,” Francis warned.

US
Wikipedia partly offline after ‘malicious attack’

Washington: Popular online reference website Wikipedia went down in several countries after the website was targeted by what it described as a “malicious attack”. The server of the Wikimedia Foundation, which hosts the site, suffered a “massive” Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack, the organisation’s German account said in a tweet late Friday. In a separate statement the Wikimedia Foundation said the attack on the encyclopedia was “ongoing” and teams were working to restore access.

YEMEN
Medics say 130 bodies pulled after airstrike

Cairo: Yemeni medics said Saturday they have pulled at least 130 bodies from the rubble of a rebel-run detention center that was hit earlier this month by Saudi-led coalition airstrikes in the country’s southwest. The Saudi-led coalition, which has fought the Iran-backed Houthis since 2015, has faced international criticism for airstrikes that have hit schools, hospitals and wedding parties. A spokesman for the Yemeni Red Crescent said the death toll has yet to be confirmed as search efforts are ongoing for more bodies at the site.

WILL GIVE U.N. INSPECTORS ACCESS TO N-SITES: IRAN

Tehran fires up advanced centrifuges in latest nuclear step, US says no surprise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TEHRAN, SEPTEMBER 7

IRAN SAID Saturday it has fired up advanced centrifuges to boost its enriched uranium stockpiles, in the latest scaling back of commitments under a crumbling 2015 nuclear deal.

The country’s Atomic Energy Organisation said, however, that it would honour commitments to give UN inspectors access to monitor its nuclear sites. Three European countries – Britain, France and Germany – have been engaged in talks to try to rescue the 2015 deal that gave Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

Tensions have been escalating between Iran and the United States since May last year when President Donald Trump pulled out of the accord and began reimposing sanctions that have crippled its economy.

The arch-foes were on the cusp of confrontation in June when Iran downed a US drone and Trump ordered retaliatory strikes before cancelling them at the last minute.

On Saturday, Iran’s Atomic Energy Organisation said it had activated 20 IR-4 and 20 IR-6



Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran at a press meet on Saturday. Reuters

centrifuges as its latest step back in rolling back its commitments.

“The centrifuge machines, as they are engaged in research and development, will help with increasing the stockpile,” said the agency’s spokesman, Behrouz Kamalvandi. “The capacity of these machines is many times more than the previous machines. This started as of yesterday (Friday),” he said.

Under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran was allowed to enrich uranium using only first-generation – or IR-1 – centrifuges. US Defence Secretary Mark Esper said he was “not surprised that Iran has announced that it’s going to violate the JCPOA”.

“It’s not surprising that the Iranians are going to pursue what the Iranians have always intended to pursue,” he said in Paris.

Kamalvandi said Iran would allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue monitoring its nuclear programme, as it has done under the 2015 accord.

Iran seizes boat in Strait of Hormuz, crew held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TEHRAN, SEPTEMBER 7

IRAN SEIZED a boat and arrested 12 Filipinos as it busted a “fuel-smuggling ring” in the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, the semi-official news agency ISNA reported.

“A foreign tugboat was confiscated as well as 283,900 litres (75,000 gallons) of petrol worth 233.71 billion rials (\$20.2 million),” ISNA said, citing the coast guard chief in the southern province of Hormozgan.

“Twelve Philippine nationals were arrested and the relevant judiciary officials are currently taking the required legal measures,” Major Hossein Dehaki was quoted as saying.

Dehaki said the group was suspected of operating a fuel-smuggling ring and the confiscated ship had been intercepted close to Sirik county in the Strait of Hormuz.

The seizure comes amid tensions in the Gulf after the United States unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 accord.

The crew is suspected of operating a fuel-smuggling ring, said Iranian officials

drew from a nuclear deal putting curbs on Iran’s nuclear programme in return for relief from sanctions.

The escalation has seen ships mysteriously attacked, drones downed and oil tankers seized in the Strait of Hormuz – a chokepoint for a third of the world’s seaborne oil.

Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps detained a “foreign tanker” in Gulf waters on July 14 for allegedly smuggling contraband fuel.

“With a capacity of two million litres and 12 foreign crew on board, the vessel was en route to deliver contraband fuel received from Iranian boats to foreign ships,” the Guards said at the time.

TANKER SPOTTED



Reuters/Maxar Technologies

SATELLITE IMAGES appear to show Iranian oil tanker Adrian Darya-1 near the Syrian port of Tartus, despite US efforts to seize the vessel

IRANIAN OFFICIALS haven’t acknowledged the ship went to Syria. The ship turned off its Automatic Identification System late Monday

THE NEW images matched one earlier tweeted by John Bolton, the US national security adviser. Bolton had tweeted: ‘Anyone who said the Adrian Darya-1 wasn’t headed to #Syria is in denial’

Russia, Ukraine swap prisoners in step to thaw ties

ANTON ZVEREV & NATALIA ZINETS
MOSCOW/KIEV, SEPTEMBER 7



At Kiev, Saturday. Reuters

RUSSIA AND Ukraine carried out a long-awaited prisoner swap on Saturday in a step that could thaw a deep freeze in relations since Moscow’s annexation of the Crimea region in 2014.

While the unfolding exchange could help rebuild confidence between Moscow and Kiev and allow them to start negotiating seriously on other issues, any road to a full rapprochement is likely to be long and complex.

On Saturday a Russian aircraft carrying freed Russian prisoners from Kiev landed in Moscow while a Ukrainian plane with released Ukrainian prisoners aboard touched down in Kiev. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy hugged the freed Ukrainians while Russia’s Rossiya 24 TV showed Russian prisoners disembarking the plane in Moscow. Zelenskiy said at Kiev airport the swap was part of his deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

He said all steps had to be taken “to finish this terrible war,” referring to the five-year-old conflict with pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

The swap was carried out on a “35-to-35” basis, Interfax news agency quoted Russian human rights commissioner Tatyana Mosalkova as saying. “Ukraine has handed out 35 people to Russia, we handed out the same number to Ukraine,” she said. REUTERS

EXPLAINED Differences remain

RUSSIA AND Ukraine have many unresolved issues, most significantly the former’s annexation of Crimea in 2014. However, the prisoner exchange could be the first step towards a thaw.

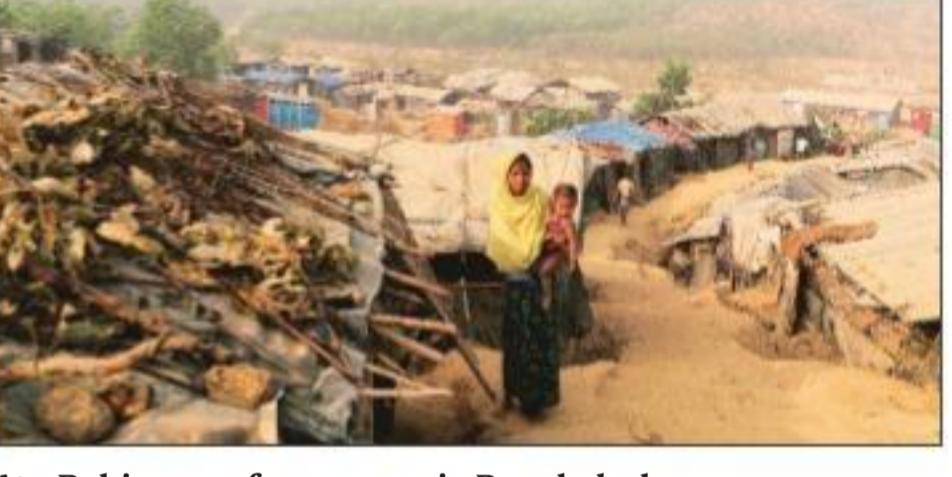
Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy have sent positive signals about the exchange, as have other world leaders. Both countries indicate that they view the swap as a gateway to talks, though it remains to be seen how this is taken forward.

Trump considers plan for drastic cut in refugees allowed to enter US

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS & MICHAEL D SHEAR
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 7

THE WHITE House is considering a plan that would effectively bar refugees from most parts of the world from resettling in the United States by cutting back the decades-old program that admits tens of thousands of people each year who are fleeing war, persecution and famine, according to current and former administration officials.

In meetings over the past several weeks, one top administration official has proposed ze-



At a Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh. NYT/file

roing out the program altogether, while leaving the president with the ability to admit

refugees in an emergency. Another option that top officials are weighing would cut refugee

admissions by half or more, to 10,000 to 15,000 people, but reserve most of those spots for refugees from a few hand-picked countries or groups with special status, such as Iraqis and Afghans who work alongside American troops, diplomats and intelligence operatives abroad.

The issue is expected to come to a head on Tuesday, when the White House plans to convene a high-level meeting in the Situation Room to discuss at what number President Donald Trump should set the annual, presidentially determined ceiling on refugee admissions for the coming year. NYT

ISRAELI TROOPS KILL TWO TEENS IN GAZA



At the funeral of a 17-year-old boy, killed by Israeli forces, in Gaza on Saturday. Reuters

■ Israeli forces shot and killed two Palestinian teenagers including a 14-year-old during protests along the Gaza-Israel border on Friday, Palestinian health officials said

■ Officials named the dead as Khaled Al-Rabai, 14, and Ali Al-Ashqar, 17. Seventy protesters were wounded, 38 of them by live fire, medical officials said

■ A few hours later five projectiles were launched from the Gaza Strip toward Israel, the Israeli military confirmed. Israel responded with tank and air strikes on a number of Hamas military targets in the northern Gaza Strip, an Israeli military spokesman said

China, Pak air forces hold joint training

SOWMIYA ASHOK
BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 7

THE CHINESE and Pakistani air forces held their joint training, ‘Shaheen (Eagle) VIII’, at an unspecified location in northwest China on Friday, adopting a “back-to-back systematic confrontation” since neither were aware of the other’s movements.

The joint training, which ran for a fortnight, is the eighth of its kind between the two countries. Chinese news agency Xinhua reported. The agency also quoted sources saying “the annual joint training does not target any third party, and aims to improve training standards of the two air forces through mutual learning”.

According to Chinese news site *thepaper.cn*, the joint training was the “first to achieve a full-process confrontation” and said it was the “largest number of Chinese and foreign air force joint training personnel” and was fully equipped and was the “most complete combat unit.”

Fifty aircraft from both sides are reported to have participated, as per reports.

CMO also quoted military observer Senior Colonel Du Wenlong, who noted that the quality of the training this time was considerably boosted.

“Both sides dispatched their typical, classical and leading equipment, indicating their confidence and the great importance they have attached to the joint training. Carrying out realistic operations with the best equipment, the two sides aimed at better confrontation performance and greater capability improvement,” he was quoted as saying.

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban kidnap six journalists

REUTERS
KABUL, SEPTEMBER 7

TALIBAN KIDNAPPED six Afghan journalists working for private and government media organisations in eastern Paktia province, government officials and Taliban said on Saturday.

The reporters, working for radio and TV news companies that broadcast news in the Pashto and Dari languages, were abducted while travelling together from neighbouring Paktika province to Paktia to attend a media workshop on Friday.

“We are trying to negotiate their release with the Taliban,” said Abdullah Hasrat, a spokesman for Paktia’s governor.

A Taliban spokesman confirmed the abduction of six journalists by their fighters but said they will be released soon.

“Yes, our mujahideen (fighters) have mistakenly kidnapped them,” said Zabiullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the hardline insurgent group.

“Right now mobile services are not working, but they will be released as soon as we establish contact with the local commander,” he said.

Blurring line between man and beast, Jallikattu makes fine debut



EXPRESS AT TIFF 2019

SHUBhra GUPTA
TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 7

IT’S BEEN a five-film, sandpaper-eyes-exhausting-yet-fulfilling day, and yes, it’s odious to compare, but I’m thrilled to report that Lijo Jose Pellissery’s new film *Jallikattu* is the clear winner: its world premiere, for which the director, his cast and crew are

present, is a smash-hit. It’s one of those films where nothing much happens and yet everything happens. A water buffalo has run amok in a tiny Kerala village, and in the 96-minute run time, we see warring residents, greedy outsiders, wise old coots, nosy neighbours, men and women involved in that oldest dance of lust and stealth, displaying all the emotions known to humans, from pettiness to grand gestures and everything in between.

If you’ve seen Pellissery’s *Angamaly Diaries* (2017) and *Ee Maayu* (2018), you will be familiar with the way the director orchestrates chaos. The strands he plays with simmer away at a slow burn till there comes a

crescendo, and you are left gasping. Through the immersive method of his filming, he makes sure the viewer is both observer and participant, and we emerge from that experience knowing more and feeling more.

In *Jallikattu*, that feeling is intensified. The control Pellissery displays as the film races along, showing us the buffalo crashing through built-inhabitutions and the surrounding forests, is evident. Through it we see what the film is aiming at — a galloping, raging mass of masculinity where being a man is equated with how you can kill and subjugate and snarl — and even more importantly, amongst men and beasts, who, really, is bestial?

Amongst the men chasing

At the debut of *Jallikattu* in Toronto. Credit: TIFF

the buffalo, and often their own tail, is the good-looking Antony

Varghese, who made his debut in *Angamaly Diaries*, and

Chemban Jose, both of whom were present on stage, with Santhy Balachandran, resplendent in a *kasavu* sari. They clean up well, these actors, because in the film they are unrecognisable, hidden under layers of fear, uncontrolled greed and grime they collect during the chase, crashing through bushes and amushing their own.

Jallikattu is exhilarating, and I’m still all shook up, a few hours after the standing ovation gala screening. The other Indian films at TIFF — Shonali Bose’s *The Sky Is Pink*, Geetu Mohandas’s *Moothron*, and Gitanjali Rao’s *Bombay Rose* — have a tough act to follow.

The other film I really liked was Sarah Gavron’s *Rocks*, all

about a young woman struggling to cope with the most challenging circumstances without once asking us to feel sorry for her. In Gavron’s debut 2007 *Brick Lane* (based on a novel of the same name by Monica Ali), you could see how comfortable this British director was portraying the lives of ‘people of colour’: Satish Kaushik, whom we usually see playing the fool in Bollywood movies, puts in a career-best performance here as a middle-aged trying to hack a life, and a young wife.

Rocks (Bukky Burakay) and her group of friends are clearly children of immigrants, but are equally clearly trying to create a space for themselves in a coun-

try they consider their own — much more so than their parents. When we first see them, they could be a group of girls hanging, joshing, having fun, but soon the film turns dark when Rocks comes home to a mother who has absconded, leaving behind her seven-year-old brother, a slim envelope with some cash and a hastily scrawled ‘sorry’.

Gavron films with authenticity and empathy. We see this bunch of young women as they see themselves — dealing with teenage insecurities and other messy details of home and school. The end credits tell us that the cast of non-professionals helped create their personas. That, right there, is why you believe.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

We, Abdul Wahab S/o Mohd. Yusuf & Sufeda Begum W/o Abdul Wahab R/o-313/76A, Tuls Nagar, Inderlok, Near Bilal Masjid, School-Road, Delhi-110035 have changed my minor daughter's name Ariba Khatoon to Ariba Khan. 0040511546-2

It is for general information that I, Kamlesh Rani W/o Raj Mohan R/o-209 Gajju Katra, Farsh Bazar, Shahdara Delhi-110032, inform that my husband's name has been wrongly written as Komal, Raj Mohan Pushya in my minor son Krishna Pushya (13 Years) School Leaving Certificate, School Record. The actual name of my husband are Kamlesh Rani, Raj Mohan respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040511542-3

I, Simmi Rehal W/o Ranjith Juttla R/o-A-27A, Mansarovar Garden Ramesh Nagar, Delhi have changed to my name Simran Kaur Juttla for all Purposes 0040511562-6

I, Shival Singh resident of H.No.1016, Gali No.2, Raj Nagar, Part-1, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110045, have changed my son's name from JAYDEEP SINGH to MANDEEP SINGH, vide affidavit/e Stamp certificate No. IN-DDL776628129345 dated 22 Aug 19. Here after in all records deed and writing and in all proceedings dealing with transaction private as well as under all occasions what so ever be known as MANDEEP SINGH. 0040511562-9

I, Sandeep Singh S/o Ravinder Singh R/o-D-8/45, Dayalpur Delhi-94, inform that after remarrying to Vidhan's mother Ritu W/o Sumit Jain Vidhan shall hereafter be known as Vidhan S/o Sandeep Singh for all purposes. 0040511524-1

I, Nathuni Sahani, S/o-Gangay Sahani, R/o-41/4, Sanjay Nagar, Gulabi Bagh, Malka Ganj, Delhi-7, that my name has been wrongly written, as Anil Mukhia, in the school record, of my minor daughter Krishna. The actual name of mine, is Nathuni Sahani. 0040511562-7

I, Dinesh Kumar Bansal S/o-Late Chhabil Chand Bansal R/o-A-1/42-43, Budh Vihar, Phase-1, New Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Dinesh Bansal for all future purposes. 0040511562-8

I, Tabassum W/o, Raiz Ahmed, R/o-18-A, Ghaffor Nagar, Jamia Nagar, have changed my name to Tabassum Ahmed for all purposes. 0040511479-1

I, Sonu Goyal S/O Sajjan Kumar Goyal R/O-Rz-12, Jain-Colony Part-3, Matiala, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-59, Have Changed My Name To Sonu Goyal. 0040511554-3

I, Sharvan Singh S/O Yudhvir Singh H.No-84-Village-Madangir Delhi-110062. Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From Vanshika To Vanshika Mahawal. 0040511524-10

I, Saroj S/o-Kanwar Singh Yadav, R/o-vill & post-Karoli, Distt-Rewari, Haryana-123303, changed my name from SAROJ to SAROJ YADAV vide-affidavit, dated-09/08/2019 040511513-1

I, Saman Simon S/O Stenly Simon R/O-P-4/851, SultanPuri, Delhi-86 Have Changed My Name To Semsan Simon. 0040511554-2

I, Shailender Pratap Singh R/o-B-363, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-110096, Have Changed My Name To Shailender Pratap Singh. 0070673449-1

I, Sajeed Khan S/O Musharraf Ali R/o-710/A362, Street No-3, Chauhan Nagar, New Seelam Pur, Delhi-110053, Changed My Name To Sajid Ali Khan. 0040511576-7

I, Angashree W/o Swapna Sasmal R/o TG HQ EMELI Cantt-11000 have changed my name to Angashree Sasmal. 0040511546-5

I, Hitherto known as Yogendra Kumar S/o Ram Singh Yadav residing at-B-2/2, Sector-15, Rohini Delhi-110089, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Yogendra Kumar Yadav. 0040511554-5

I, Rajan Bisht S/O Sher Singh Bisht R/O WB-121, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092, Changed my name to Rajan Singh Bisht. 0040511576-1

I, Rachit Rawat S/O Gajendra Rawat, R/O-P-1/101, Sheikh Sarai, Phase-2, New Delhi-110017; solemnly affirm that my father's name Gajendra S Rawat & Gajendra Rawat is one and the same. 0040511556-1

I, Neelu W/O Avinash Bhalla, R/O-C2c, Pocket-2, Flat No-6, 2nd Floor, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, Changed My Name Mahima Bhalla. 0040511561-2

I, Nazm W/o Aftab Ahmad R/O-350, Street No-18, Jafraabad, New Seelampr Delhi-53 Have Changed My Name To Najma Begum. 0040511554-1

I, Narang S/o Sh. Baju R/o B-1/82, J.J. Colony, Raghbir Nagar, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Narain for all purposes. 0040511471-1

I, Manoj Kumar S/o Jai Ram Bhai R/o-245, pkt-3, Paschim Puri, ND-63, hereby inform in my son's school records my name was wrongly mentioned as Manoj Bhoj instead of my correct name Manoj Kumar. 0040511484-1

I, Madhuri Sreedharanemon Thuvapeta W/o Pacheeri Kesavankutty R/o-4511 Alokk-Vihar, Sector-50, Noida, UP, have changed my name to Madhuri for all purposes. 0040511546-1

I, Krishan Kumar Rajpurohit S/o Mangil Rajpurohit R/o-B-10/5 1st Floor, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Krishan Rajpurohit for all purposes. 0040511524-2

I, Komal Mehta W/o Late Sudhir Mehta D/o Late Sita Ram R/o-B-17C-18 First-Floor Mahavir Enclave Part-I N.Dehli-110045, inform that Gita Rani, and Komal Mehta are the same and one person. 0040511546-4

I, Km.Rashida W/o Naushad Khan R/o-Flat No-6.Kh-11/4-22 1st-Floor Gafli-17 Chandan-Vihar West-SantNagar Burari Delhi-110084, changed my Name To Rashida Khan. 0040511524-9

I, Khushbu W/o Sh. Munna Kumar Pandey R/o Bhagwanpur Simra Muzaffarpur, Bihar-843/20, have changed my name to Khushbu Kumari for all purposes. 0040511497-1

I, K.M. Lata Bisht W/o Rajendra Singh, H.No-306, Type-4, Sector-4, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022, Changed My Name To Lata Kandari. 0040511576-4

I, Jugnu Malik W/o Siddharth Kundu R/o-123 Near-Jantwal Wali Chaupal Alkar Pur Majra Delhi-110036, Changed My Name To Yashika. 0040511524-8

I, Parul d/o Sanjeev Khatri R/o-210 Jatwara sonipat have changed my name to Parul Khatri for all purposes. 0040511463-1

I, Yash Mangal S/O Rajesh Kumar Aggarwal R/O-A-35 Vipul-World sector-48 Sohna-Road Gurgaon Haryana-122001, have changed my name Yash Aggarwal. 0040511561-5

I, Rajesh Kumar Aggarwal S/O Bhagwan Das R/O-A-35 Vipul-World sector-48 Sohna-Road Gurgaon Haryana-122001, have changed my minor daughter name Vanshika Mangal to Vanshika Aggarwal. 0040511561-6

I, Hina Beum / Heena W/O Khalid Ateeq Khan H.No-334, Gali No-13, Zakir Nagar, New Delhi-110025, Changed My Name To Hina Khan. 0040511576-5

I, Deepali Sanjay Dattani D/O Sanjay Kumar Dattani R/O-B-1/27, Third-Floor, Police-Computer Society, Vasundhra-Enclave, Delhi-110096, Changed My Name To Deepali Dattani. 0040511576-6

I, Dalip Chadha W/o Late.Mohinder Singh Chadha R/o-45 New Rajdhani-Enclave Vikas-Marg Delhi-92, have changed my name to Dalip Kaur Chadha, for all purposes. 0040511546-3

I, Chirags/o Sanjeev Khatri R/o-210 Jatwara Sonipat have changed my name to Chirags Khatri for all purposes. 0040511513-3

I, Chander Kanta Bharti W/o Shri Raja Ram Bharti R/o-93, Sector-20, Noida distt. Gautam Budh Nagar Pin-201301 U.P. have changed my name to Chandra Kanta for future all purpose. 0040511483-1

I, It is notified for the information that my original Certificate of Secondary Examination of year 1993-94 and Roll no. 6394280 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of the candidate Mohammad Yahya full address 3448, Gali Gulari wali, Kucha Pandit, Lal Kuan, Delhi-110006. 0040511483-1

I, Notice is here given that the share-certificate by Folio Number-0214257847, of Reliance Industries-Limited, standing in the name of Rohit Prasad, resident of, W-159, Greater Kailash, Part-1, South-Delhi, have been reported lost/stolen and that an application for issue of duplicate-certificate in respect thereof has been made to society for issue of duplicate-shares to whom objection, if any against issuance, of such Duplicate-Shares certificates should be made within, 15-days from the date of publication of this notice. Share-certificate is not mortgaged or any loan taken against it. 0040511562-3

I, It is notified for the information that my original qualifying Marksheets of 4th Semester of year 2015-16 and Roll no. 322789 issued by BTE has been actually lost. Name: Yogesh Kumar, Add. A13, Vikas Nagar Extn. Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59. If Found Call: 9889316746 0040511475-1

I, Notice is here given that the share-certificate by Folio Number-0214257847, of Reliance Industries-Limited, standing in the name of Sudhir Joshi, resident of E-119, East of Kailash South-Delhi-110065, have been reported lost/stolen and that an application for issue of duplicate-certificate in respect thereof has been made to society for issue of duplicate-shares to whom objection, if any against issuance, of such Duplicate-Shares certificates should be made within, 15-days from the date of publication of this notice. Share-certificate is not mortgaged or any loan taken against it. 0040511562-3

I, Notice is here given that the share-certificate by Folio Number-024851982, of Reliance Industries-Limited, standing in the name of Rohit Prasad, resident of, W-159, Greater Kailash, Part-1, South-Delhi, have been reported lost/stolen and that an application for issue of duplicate-certificate in respect thereof has been made to society for issue of duplicate-shares to whom objection, if any against issuance, of such Duplicate-Shares certificates should be made within, 15-days from the date of publication of this notice. Share-certificate is not mortgaged or any loan taken against it. 0040511562-3

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AS INDIA LOOKS TO REACH CONSENSUS ON E-MOBILITY, CARMAKERS ARE PUSHING THE ENVELOPE

Innovations in EV tech: From powering homes to plugging last mile connectivity

ANIL SASI

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

E-CARS THAT double up as mobile power sources to electric vehicles (EV) incorporating folded e-scooters in the boot as a compliment to the main vehicle, both for last mile connectivity and as a back-up option if the user were to ever be stranded at some point due to low battery in the car.

As the task of thrashing out a consensus on the template for driving in electric mobility for mass market adoption gets underway in India, global carmakers are already pushing the envelope to new frontiers of EV technologies. Japanese carmaker Nissan is marketing the new Leaf electric — now the world's largest selling electric car model — as not just a mobility provider, but also as a mobile power source by leveraging the car's 40 kWh (kilo watt hour) battery to plug in and power the owner's house in the event of an extended outage or if the solar electricity source were to get fully exhausted, or for even wheeling electricity back to the grid if such a market evolves.

Other such as South Korea's Hyundai are exploring the idea of using e-scooters as a compliment to their vehicles instead of an alternative, by releasing an e-scooter prototype that can be mounted and automatically charged on upcoming Hyundai and Kia vehicles using electricity that is produced while driving. Once the vehicle is parked, the compartments open and the driver is able to quickly transfer from car to the scooter after un-folding the latter.

German carmaker BMW too has unveiled its own electric scooter with a range of about 12 miles, which is on sale at the company's German dealerships.

For Nissan, its vehicle-to-home (V2H) technology-equipped Leaf could theoretically be an alternative to a home battery system, such as those used in back-up inverters, saving consumers money by storing solar energy for night time use.

In countries where there is

time-of-the-day metering of

power, the owner of a Leaf can

technically make a daily earning

by simply charging at off-peak

rates overnight and discharging

power to the grid during the day.

Analysts estimate that the 40

kWh version of the Leaf offers at

least ten times the energy storage

capacity of a large-sized home

battery. While it is still early days, Nissan Motor India — a unit of the Yokohama-based Japanese carmaker — has indicated that the auto major is working with various governments and private companies to make plugging in as accessible as possible.

The new Nissan Leaf links

drivers, vehicles and communities

through the user-friendly

systems that share power be-

tween electric vehicles and

homes, buildings and power

grids. One of the most famous

projects has been implemented

in Hawaii with the local electric

company to use hundreds of Leaf

as a storage of electricity during

low demand period in the day,"

Grippo said.

In India, he indicated that

Nissan had recently demon-

strated V2H technology in the

new Leaf by powering live



Nissan's new Leaf electric can act not just as a mobility provider, but also as a mobile power source by leveraging its 40 kWh battery to plug in and power homes. *Nissan Global*



Hyundai plans to compliment its e-vehicles with foldable scooters. *Hyundai Motor*

leverage e-scooters as a compliment to their vehicles and this is being promoted as a foldable scooter — which, going by a promo video released by Hyundai, looks like it could nearly fit inside an big handbag — being stored in several potential compartments inside the car.

Once the vehicle is parked, the boot or other compartment can be opened, the scooter unfolded and the driver is able to quickly shift from car to scooter. Hyundai said the idea for adding e-scooters to their vehicles came from research showing that the 'Last Mile Mobility' market in the US, Europe and China is projected to grow to \$500 Billion by 2030. "This is the vehicle-mounted personal scooter which could be featured in future Hyundai Motor Group vehicles," according to Dongjin Hyun, head of Hyundai Motor Group Robotics Team.

While Hyundai and BMW's entry into the e-scooter space does mean additional competition in an increasingly crowded market, the prototypes released by both companies appear much smaller than rentable models produced in the United States and Europe by companies such as Bird, Lime, Bolt and Skip.

Despite its small dimensions, Hyundai claims that the device's 10.5 Ah (ampere hour) lithium

battery is powerful enough to help the scooter achieve a top speed of more than 12 miles per hour and traverse 12 miles on a single charge. Hyundai says the "tri-folding" rear-wheel drive scooter weighs just under 8 kg and features a digital display that shows battery status and speed, while its engineers have added suspension to the device's front wheel for a smoother ride.

The transition from a front-wheel drive, as was the case in the prototype, to rear-wheel drive is key in enhancing safety and stability as it positions weight near the rear, according to the auto manufacturer. Looking at further potential development, Hyundai plans to install a regenerative braking system to increase the scooter's range by another 7 per cent. Ongoing efforts to provide customers with last mile transportation align with trends highlighted in research data by global consultancy McKinsey & Company, which said that the 'Last Mile Mobility' market in the US, Europe, and China is expected to grow to \$500 Billion by the company to at least 600 this year.

"Over the last few months, we have seen our technology products and platforms evolve and improve significantly. While business has continued to grow consistently, this has led to an overall reduction in direct order-related support queries. We have dramatically improved the speed of service resolution, such that now only 75 per cent of our orders need support (down from 15 per cent in March)," a Zomato spokesperson said.

According to McKinsey, "micromobility could theoretically encompass all passenger trips of less than 8 km, which account for as much as 50 to 60 per cent of today's total passenger miles traveled in China, the European Union, and the US. For example, about 60 per cent of car trips are less than 8 km and could benefit from micromobility solutions, which could also cover roughly 20 per cent of public-transport travel (in addition to closing the first- and last-mile gap) as well as all trips done by private bike, moped, scooter, or walking today".

Those numbers could work in the Indian context too. According to a Deloitte report of April 2019 on 'Making Micromobility Work', sidewalk riding reflects, in part, more fundamental limitations of many cities' infrastructure, which for decades has prioritised cars at the expense of other modes — a potential impediment in the Indian context too.

Zomato lays off 541 support staff citing 'redundancies'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

ONLINE RESTAURANT discovery and food delivery company Zomato has laid off as many as 541 people, representing 10 per cent of the firm's strength. The company said the job cuts were across its customer, merchant and delivery partner support teams — which were rendered redundant due to reduction in order-related support queries. The current round of handing over of pink slips comes in addition to the 60 employees that Zomato laid off last month to reduce costs and eliminate redundancies, taking the total number of layoffs by the company to at least 600 this year.

"Over the last few months, we have seen our technology products and platforms evolve and improve significantly. While business has continued to grow consistently, this has led to an overall reduction in direct order-related support queries. We have dramatically improved the speed of service resolution, such that now only 75 per cent of our orders need support (down from 15 per cent in March)," a Zomato spokesperson said.

"Unfortunately, the culmination of these factors has also led to certain redundancies across our customer, merchant and delivery partner support teams. Today, we let go of 541 people (~10 per cent of Zomato's strength) across these support teams," the person added.

Zomato said severance pay of 2-4 months will be extended to those who have been handed the pink slips, depending on their tenure with the firm, in addition to extending insurance support for these employees till January 2020. It pointed out that there was no one intervention or optimisation that led to the move "but a series of technological and process advances that on one end spurred

EXPLAINED
E.
Comes amid stand-off with restaurant owners

THE FRESH round of layoffs in the food delivery sector has come at a time when Zomato, along with other delivery platforms such as Swiggy and Uber Eats, are in the middle of a stand-off with the restaurant owners — led by the National Restaurants Association of India — over the alleged anti-competitive practices being followed by the platforms.

The layoffs add to the job losses in manufacturing sectors such as the auto and ancillary units.

the growth of our food delivery business and subsequently the 5X growth of our delivery partner fleet over the last year, have also led to fewer support queries and certain redundancies within support functions". "This year we have hired ~1,200 people across functions (not inclusive of our last-mile delivery fleet) and another ~400 off-rolls positions," the spokesperson said.

Post Saturday's layoffs, Zomato's current staff strength is estimated to be 5,000, including its international operations. Back in 2015, the firm — as part of restructuring its operations to focus on increasing traffic on the platform — asked nearly 300 of its employees in North America to leave.

'Revenue visibility of pvt road segment players may be hit'

Revenue visibility of players operating in roads segment would be impacted negatively in the medium term in case of slowdown in fresh awards by NHAI, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said in a report

Factors that caused slowdown in road sector:

- General elections in fourth quarter of FY19 and first quarter of FY20
- Government change in some states, where infra projects awarded by previous governments were cancelled

Return to BOT model a deterrent: The suggestion by the PM's Office to NHAI to return to privatisation of roads by reverting back to the build-operate-transfer (BOT) model to reduce NHAI's balance sheet exposure can

Budgetary allocation support to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, including internal and extra-budgetary resources, rising 12.4 per cent year-on-year

₹1,116 billion

Budgetary allocation support to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, including internal and extra-budgetary resources, rising 12.4 per cent year-on-year

35-40%

Share of road segment in total order book of construction firms, with most projects having exposure from NHAI and state authorities

500 km

Worth of road projects awarded by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) of the targeted 7,000-8,000 km for FY20

adversely impact bidding participation from private players

NHAI's reliance on EPC model: The NHAI's reliance on engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) model has increased since FY16, due to a decline in participation from private players on account of persistent issues in the BOT model

WHAT IS BOT

Under the BOT model, private players have to bring in equity and tie up debt funding to execute the orders



'Anti-competitive' practices by Uber: SC orders investigation

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

THE SUPREME Court has ordered a probe into the alleged abuse of dominance and anti-competitive practices by popular taxi-hailing app operator Uber India Systems. It also requested the Director General of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to complete the probe within six months.

Refusing to interfere with the erstwhile Competition Appellate Tribunal's (Compat) December 2016 order, an SC bench led by Justice RF Nariman dismissed Uber's appeal, saying it would be difficult to say that no prima facie case is made out from the material provided by the informants.

It found sufficient material to order an investigation into allegations against Uber, which intentionally was losing as much as Rs 200 per ride, and offering cheap rides to customers and heavy incentives to drivers

this dominant position, whether directly or indirectly, imposes an unfair price in purchase or sale including predatory price of services, abuse of dominant position also gets attracted. Explanation (b) which defines 'predatory price' means sale of services at a price which is below cost. This being the case, on the facts of this case, on this ground alone, we do not think it fit to interfere with the order made by the Appellate Tribunal," the Supreme Court said.

Earlier in 2017, the apex court had put on hold the Compat's order which directed CCI, the fair trade watchdog, to investigate the alleged abuse of dominance by Uber.

The Compat had in December 2016 ordered a probe after Meru Travels Solutions challenged CCI's earlier decision that refused to order a probe into allegations against Uber's unfair practices including predatory pricing. FE

"Given the allegation made, it is clear that if, in fact, a loss is made for trips made, Explanation (a)(ii) which prima facie be attracted in as much as this would certainly affect the appellant's competitors in the appellant's favour in so far as 'abuse' of dominant position is concerned, under Section 4(2)(a), so long as

FinMin forms task force to implement ₹100 lakh crore worth of infra projects

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

A DAY after pushing state-owned companies to accelerate investments, the Centre on Saturday constituted a task force to identify and prepare a pipeline of infrastructure projects that can be executed over the next five years. The task force, headed by the Economic Affairs Secretary, will draw up a 'National Infrastructure Pipeline' of Rs 100 lakh crore expected to come up by 2024-25.

This would include greenfield and brownfield projects costing above Rs 100 lakh crore each, a Finance Ministry statement said.

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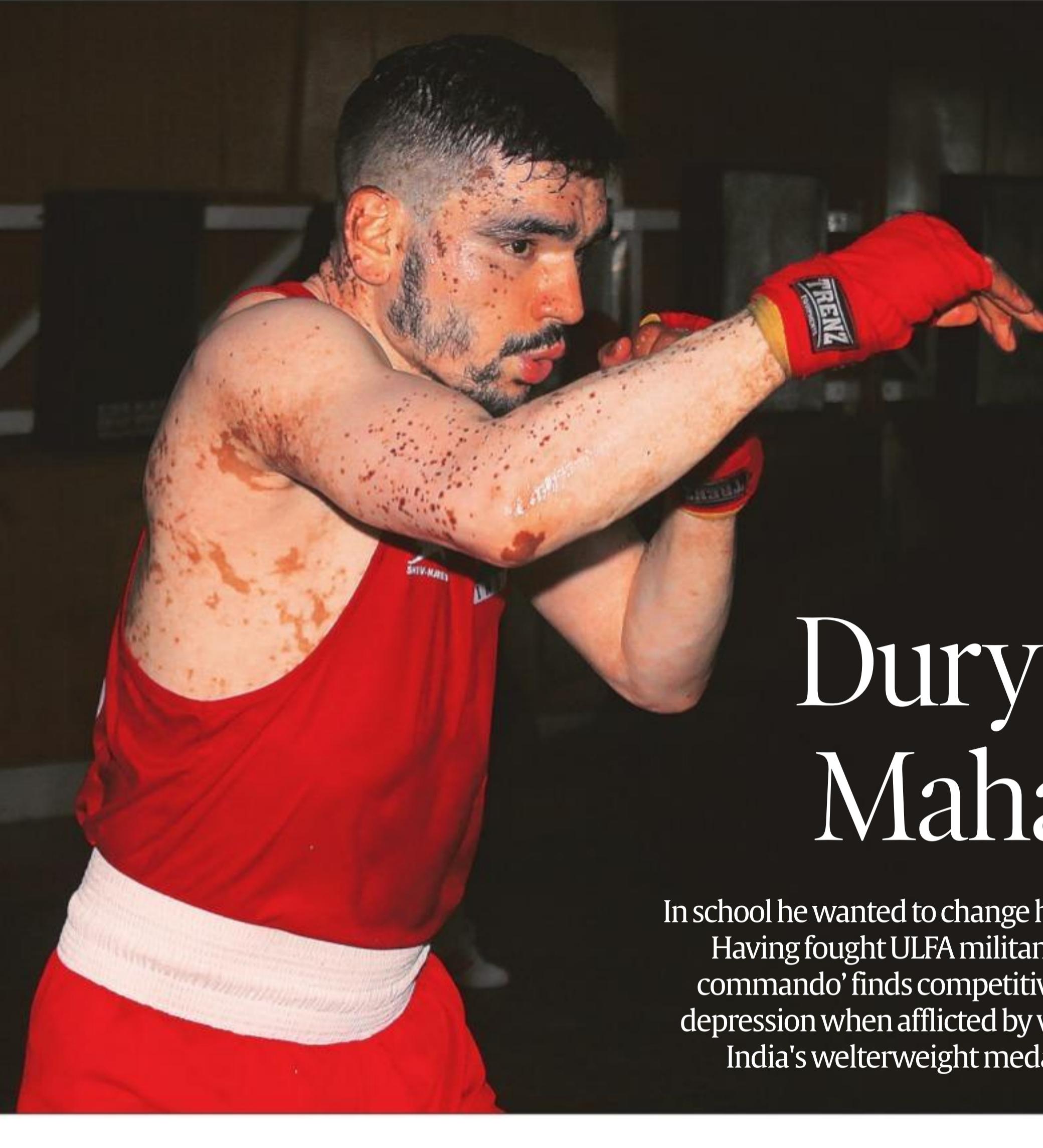
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NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PIPELINE

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ing appropriate sources of financing and suggest measures to monitor the projects to minimise cost and time overruns.



Duryodhan's Mahabharat

In school he wanted to change his name, but has made peace with it now. Having fought ULFA militants while posted in Assam, the 'ghatak commando' finds competitive boxing much easier. He even battled depression when afflicted by vitiligo. GAURAV BHATT tells the story of India's welterweight medal hope at the World Championship.



Duryodhan Negi (R) with teammate Kavinder Bisht (L), 10 years his junior, and coach Khimanand Belwal, who helped him during his early days.

THE INDIAN CORNER

A look at the men's squad that'll compete at the World Championship

AMIT PANGHAL 52KG

The biggest medal hope. After the CWG silver and Asian gold at 49kg last year, the move up to the Olympic category of 52kg was expected to be difficult for the 5'3" Panghal. He aced the litmus test with a gold at the Asian Championships.

THREATS: Yosvany Veitia (Cuba, reigning World champion, 2019 PanAm silver), Daniel Asenov (Bulgaria, 2019 Euro silver)

KAVINDER BISHT 57KG

Bisht was one win away from a medal at the last edition. That was in 52kg, reached after a draining weight cut that almost made him walk away from the sport. Now boxing at bantamweight, Bisht got silver at the Asian C'ship, where he defeated the reigning world champion Kairat Yeraliyev.

Threats: Yeraliyev (Kazakhstan, reigning world champion), Duke Ragan (USA, 2017 silver, 2019 PanAm silver)

MANISH KAUSHIK 63KG

Kaushik was supposed to be India's lightweight fix after the CWG silver last year, but trading wins with two-time Olympian Shiva Thapa took a toll on his confidence. With both boxers moving up to the bridging Olympic weight of 63kg, Kaushik got the last laugh at the selection trials in July.

Threat: Andy Cruz (Cuba, 2017 world champion, PanAm champion)

DURYODHAN NEGI 69KG

The biggest tournament of the career of the 34-year-old, who qualified on the basis of consistent performances over the year and a win over Asian Championships bronze-medallist Ashish in the trials. Muscled out in the welterweight by boxers such as Manoj Kumar, and with seasoned Vikas Krishan dropping down to 69kg, Negi would hope to seize his chance.

Threat: Roniel Iglesias (Cuba, 2017 silver medallist, PanAm champion)

ASHISH KUMAR 75KG

National bronze-medallist broke out on the scene seemingly out of nowhere

and hiding from the public glare.

"It affected my confidence a lot. Whenever I would go out, I would feel that everybody is looking at me. It's incurable too, but then somebody suggested Ayurveda, and that I should give up doodh, dahi. How could a boxer survive like that?"

It was when the funk started affecting his performance, that coach Narendra Rana and the rest of the coaching staff at the ASI staged an intervention. "It was depression, and you could see it in his boxing. I took other coaches and went to his room. We just reminded him that there are people less fortunate than him, struggling with various problems in life. You have a fit body, you are a fit boxer, what's this superficial thing holding you down for?" recalls Rana. "I think the thing clicked when we assured him that it will have no effect on his boxing. I confirmed it with AIBA if such cases are considered fitness issues. We got him a certificate of full fitness after all the tests and everything. And that's when I think it clicked for him that whatever this situation is, it's not going to stop him from being a proper boxer."

Negi says it was all about putting things in perspective.

"I realised that I have a wife, a son and a daughter who will always love me unconditionally. I know many differently-abled people, who not just battle every day but continue to live life and enjoy it. My problems were essentially only skin deep. I remember how tough it was, but the only message I have for anybody dealing with the same issue is that you try and feel comfortable in your own skin, in your mind," says Negi. "Because honestly, if you feel comfortable and walk around with full confidence, then the rest of the world also treats you with respect and looks past your colour. It's about the realisation that you aren't suffering. Now I go out without any issues," says Negi, and with a chuckle adds: "In fact, I think I'm even better looking now."

■ ■ ■

Being simultaneously older and less experienced than rivals is a stinging 1-2 to the body for a boxer. Negi thus was long overshadowed by senior boxers. Olympian Manoj Kumar was the chosen one when both competed at 64kg, and also when both moved up a division. As Manoj potted out, statemate Ashish took the reins, and despite finishing second to Negi at last year's nationals, earned the Asian Championships call where he took bronze.

"I should have gotten a chance at such a major tournament before," says Negi, who beat Ashish in the selection trials in July. "But I also started late so it's nobody's fault. There were doubts in my mind when I was the number 2 or 3 boxer. But it's motivating that the coaching staff was keeping track of our performances and training."

In fact, 17 months ago, half of this Indian squad — Negi, Bisht, Brijesh Yadav (81kg) and Sanjeet (91kg) — were B-listers competing in the semi-professional WSB competition in Rohtak, while the first-stringers basked in the glory of their CWG exploits. On one of those nights in Rohtak against Russians, Negi lost and Bisht won. But afterwards, both spoke with a hint of indifference about their performance, alluding to doubts about their place in the larger scheme of things.

"I was one win away from a medal at last

Worlds, and then last year I realised that I was the number 2 boxer in my division and that bothered me. But then again, it was my problem because I wasn't sure of my weight and was thinking of going up a division," says Bisht, who went from 52 to 56kg and has cleaned up the competitive division since.

"It's understandable that a boxer will have doubts when they aren't picked," says high-performance director Santiago Nieva. "Those guys who were number 2, number 3 now know that there was nothing pre-decided on who the top guys are, who will go to all tournaments. Anyone who impresses, no matter the level of competition or even just during training sessions, will be selected for trials before major events."

Nieva adds: "Duryodhan has a very high work rate, tremendous combinations and ability to put pressure on opponents. The problem was that he was not fast enough, and after some time his defence would start slipping and he would get punched. The defence has since improved, he has looked good in the training. I have high hopes for him."

Negi is neither the most graceful welterweight nor the most technical. And at 5'6, he gives up inches in reach and height to most in the division. Simply put, in a division full of killers (like 2017 Worlds silver-medallist and current PanAm champion Roniel Iglesias of Cuba), Negi isn't going to be a world-beater on tactical acumen alone. The one thing he has going for him is the gas tank. Staying at a distance against taller opponents presents the risk of being picked off. Negi fights close and relies on long combinations, a strategy demanding top-shelf endurance. Negi's got stamina for days and the rule changes in amateur boxing, promoting aggressive punching, mean he will always be in with a shot.

"Padais are known to be naturally good when it comes to endurance. Then his years training with the army," says Rana. "His game is built on offence, he doesn't let his opponents breathe, and such offensive boxers with high endurance rule boxing in today's world."

■ ■ ■

Negi's is a story of fighting odds as an outlier. From being unfit for the army to becoming a 'ghatak commando' engaged in firefights. From being scared from putting on the gloves to being the one dishing out pain in the ring. From lowly inter-battalion tournaments, being a gatekeeper in the national set-up, to becoming a medal hope at the World Championships. From standing out from the crowd to coming to terms with his own skin, and not to forget, his name. "We used to watch Mahabharat on TV when we were kids, and nobody liked Duryodhana's role. Negi's parents or the priest must have had something in mind to name him Duryodhan. It is most definitely an unusual name... But it suits him," Rana laughs but is quick to substantiate the remark. "Don't get me wrong, outside of the ring, he is a very honest and dedicated person. He never argued, no matter what the training. He is helpful and an all-around good fellow. But in the ring, he punishes opponents," Rana says, adding just the perfect descriptor: "Bohot kroor hai. (He is a cruel boxer). In the ring, he truly becomes Duryodhan."

After all, in the literal sense, Duryodhan means an unconquerable fighter.

WHAT'S IN A name? Don't ask a man who shares his with the chief antagonist of the great Indian epic Mahabharata.

"Panditji ne pata nahi kya soch ke naam rakh diya (Don't know what the priest was thinking when he named me)," wonders Duryodhan Singh Negi, India's welterweight contender at the upcoming boxing World Championships in Russia. "My father too was very religious, so I'm guessing he didn't interject either. Back in school, I even tried to get it changed but it didn't work out."

A common misconception about the eldest of the Kauravas, stemming from a cursory grasp of the linguistics, goes that Suyodhan became Duryodhan as his character grew viler, nevermind that both monikers are used interchangeably in several translations. The logic being *su* means good, and *duri*, bad. (Think *durgam* i.e. inaccessible, like the treacherous Himalayan locale of Duratoli, Munsiyari in Pithoragarh district, Negi's hometown).

"Honestly, I'm okay with it now. The target now is to make it to the point that if somebody looks up the name Duryodhan, it should show my picture," Negi says. "I know 3-4 Duryodhans. Such names are common in our area," sniggers Kavinder Singh Bisht, the bantamweight from Bungbung, 60km further east of Duratoli. "Par yuddh toh inhone hi lade hain (but only this one has been in wars)."

Bisht, of course, alludes to Negi's days of being a 'ghatak commando' for the 4th Kumaon regiment, a past which makes the latter a popular raconteur in the national camp at NIS, Patiala. "He is a very intelligent person. We all go to him when we have any doubt or want to discuss news. Everyone keeps asking him about army life. Tell me *bhai*, do you have any stories filled with action?"

"There's one in particular Negi uses for regaling purposes.

The firefight lasted about half an hour, and the soldiers checked the site the morning after. "Some fled, but 7-8 of them had died," Negi says.

■ ■ ■

Negi recalls the chilly, sleepless nights of December 2008 in Assam's Karbi Anglong district, spent in the open with a service rifle in his hands, on the lookout for ULFA militants. After receiving the intel, 4th Kumaon's Charlie company advanced towards the hideout, nestled in the thick foliage of the Garo hills, and Negi was part of the raid.

"They had higher ground and direct advancing was risky, so our commanding officer played a trick. He took half the team through the main path. Our team of 8-10 soldiers moved slowly through the jungle towards their location. The militants were resting, and it was when we had sneaked really close to the hideout, that a flashlight came on. We took our positions and opened fire."

The firefight lasted about half an hour, and the soldiers checked the site the morning after. "Some fled, but 7-8 of them had died," Negi says, a matter-of-fact retelling devoid of bravado. "It's duty. As a soldier, certain things are expected of you. Just like as a boxer, I'm expected to do certain things."

Surely similarities end there?

"You can say that," Negi laughs. "Army experiences make training for world championship seem easy. I've finished the morning practice now, and I am free. I've got nothing to do with anybody. In the army, you could've had the most grueling of training sessions, with 2-3 hours of sleep, but you'd still have to be ready to go anywhere at any time. A soldier never switches off. That's also a kind of fun I miss now."

■ ■ ■

Five years ago, Negi was broken to the point of keeping himself locked in a room. Everything seemed to be working out for Negi in 2014. A silver at the army nationals got him the chance to train at the state-of-the-art Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune. He'd go on to win his first national title the same year. But it was the onset of vitiligo — an autoimmune condition that causes the skin to lose pigmentation — which left the boxer debilitated. The pale patches first appeared on the neck and fingers, then the face and within months Negi had lost pigment in almost all of his body.

The loss of pigmentation, and in turn confidence, meant that at a time when Negi should have been fighting rivals and jostling for the spotlight, he was left battling inner demons

When I was going to the USA, I didn't know it would be that good. I have to say I love USA

DANIIL MEDVEDEV, US OPEN FINALIST WHO HAS HAD RUN INS WITH THE FANS

Russ hour in New York

Russian fifth seed Daniil Medvedev stands in the way of Rafael Nadal and a 19th Grand Slam title

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 7

RAFAEL NADAL will play for his 19th Grand Slam title, one shy of Roger Federer's all-time men's record, after battling past Italy's Matteo Berrettini on Friday and into his fifth US Open final.

The 33-year-old Spaniard dispatched Berrettini 7-6 (8/6), 6-4, 6-1 at Arthur Ashe Stadium to reach a Sunday showdown against Russian fifth seed Daniil Medvedev, who ousted Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 6-3.

"Very happy to be back into the final of the US Open," Nadal said. "It means a lot to be back where I am today after some tough moments at the beginning of the season."

Nadal, who shook off an early season right hip injury to win a 12th French Open title, seeks his fourth US Open crown — one shy of the Open-era record of five shared by Federer, Pete Sampras and Jimmy Connors — to reach the brink of Federer's mark.

"It's just another chance on Sunday," Nadal said. "I want to enjoy a day off, have a good practice and Sunday is the day to play my best."

Nadal, into his 27th Grand Slam final, beat Medvedev in last month's Montreal final in their only prior meeting. But the World No.2 skipped Cincinnati, where Medvedev was champion the following week. "He's one of the more solid players on tour," Nadal said of Medvedev. "He's making steps forward every single week. I need to be playing at my best."

Medvedev, in his first Grand Slam final at 23, has gone 20 for 2 in the past six weeks with runner-up efforts in Washington and Canada, a title in Cincinnati and a break-through US Open run. "I'm just happy to be in the final," Medvedev said. "When I was going to USA, I didn't know it was going to be this good. So I have to say I love USA."

Medvedev is the first Russian in a men's Grand Slam final since Marat Safin won the 2005 Australian Open title and the first Russian to reach the US Open final since Safin won the 2000 crown. Nadal has dropped only one set at the Open but was severely tested by 24th seed Berrettini, the first Italian man in the US Open semi-finals since Corrado Barazzutti in 1977.

Berrettini denied Nadal on six break points in the first set, jumped ahead 4-0 in the tie-break and seized two set points at 6-4 as the Ashe crowd roared with delight. But the Italian netted two backhand volleys, a baseline backhand and then hit a forehand long to hand Nadal the set.

"I was lucky to win that first set," Nadal said. "First set had been a little bit frustrating. You don't want to be in a tie-breaker against a player like Matteo after you have missed all those opportunities."

Nadal, who never faced a break point, took his first break for a 4-3 lead in the second set, held twice to take the set, then rolled to victory in two hours, 35 minutes. "I survived at the moment and finally I had the break in the second set and the match changed," Nadal said. "I played calm more and super aggressive."

US Open fans gave solid applause to Medvedev after earlier-round boos for flashing an obscene gesture and taunts saying he thrived on their jeers for energy to win. He later apologized.

Medvedev took the first-set tie-break after Dimitrov netted a forehand and sent another long on the last two points. "The confidence means a lot in this case because I do think he was better player in first set. I do think I was kind of lucky to win it," Medvedev said. "Then the momentum changed completely. I was playing better than him in the next two sets. We had some amazing level."

Dimitrov netted a backhand to surrender a break and the second set in the 10th game. Medvedev broke for a 3-1 lead in the third set and held to the finish.

"These crucial points, this moment in my game, there is something strong that makes me win these crazy sets and crazy matches, which maybe two months ago I would have lost," said Medvedev.



CAN MEDVEDEV BREAK THE BIG 3'S GRIP ON SLAMS?

For the 3rd consecutive year, the Big 3 of men's tennis – Federer, Nadal and Djokovic – are gunning for a clean sweep of the four Grand Slams in the calendar year. The last time it happened was in the 2006 – 2008 seasons. On Sunday, Nadal will have a chance to complete the hat-trick.

57 OF 59

Starting from the 2005 French Open final, at least one player from the Big 3 has reached the final 57 times in the last 59 majors. The only two exceptions were Marin Cilic's beating of Kei Nishikori at the 2014 US Open, and Andy Murray's 2016 Wimbledon title against Milos Raonic.

'OUTSIDE' CHALLENGE AT US OPEN

In the last 10 editions of each Grand Slam, the US Open has had more winners from outside the Big 3 than any other. Juan

Martin Del Potro (2009), Murray (2012), Cilic (2014) and Stan Wawrinka (2016) are the four outside the Federer-Nadal-Djokovic triumvirate to have claimed the US Open title. In comparison, Wimbledon has had a winner outside the Big 3 twice – Murray winning in 2013 and 2016. Meanwhile Wawrinka is the only player to have claimed a title at the Australian Open (2014) and French Open (2015).

NADAL'S RUN AGAINST OUTSIDERS

Nadal will play his 10th Slam final against a player apart from Federer & Djokovic. He has lost once, to Wawrinka ('14 Aus Open).



MEDVEDEV'S RUN

The 23-year-old Russian has more number of tour-level wins this year than any other player. He's won a total of 50 matches, lost 16 and now made it to his seventh final this year – so far winning two. In comparison, Nadal has won 47 matches, lost six, and now reached his fifth final of the year.

NADAL MAY be the clear favourite, but Medvedev has been the player to beat since the start of the hard court season in late-July. The world no 5 is currently on a 12-match winning run. He's won the last 20 of the 22 matches he's played since Wimbledon, making it to the finals of each of the four tournaments he's competed in – Washington Citi Open (lost to Nick Kyrgios), Montreal Masters (lost to Nadal), Cincinnati Masters (won against David Goffin), and the US Open.

Medvedev starts to prove doubters wrong

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 7

DANIIL MEDVEDEV has enjoyed silencing those who questioned his fiery temperament and wrote him off during his teenage years after a sizzling hardcourt season that has left him on the cusp of US Open glory. The Russian secured a place in his first Grand Slam final Friday with a 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 6-3 defeat of Grigor Dimitrov, setting Medvedev up with an instant shot at revenge for last month's Montreal loss to Rafael Nadal.

However, his path to Sunday's championship match in New York has been a rocky ride – embraced at first by Medvedev but one he is now keen to forget as he tries to shed his image as the wacky villain.

Booed by fans after an obscene gesture in

the third round, Medvedev taunted them in response by saying he thrived on their jeers for the energy to win. He later apologized and admitted it has been a long road to clean up his act. "There were many who would say, coaches or something, at the age of 16 or 14, I could get engaged during the match because I thought they clapped on a double-fault or something, I would scream at them. They would scream at me," Medvedev recalled of his younger years.

"Many of these people would say, 'Okay, the guy is completely crazy, he's never be a good tennis player.' Which is maybe happened to some of the tennis players. I'm glad I proved them wrong. Talk about reactions, they were totally different. Some wanted to just help me get better. Some, as I say, said, 'OK, who is this crazy guy and what is he doing on the tennis court?' I've improved big-

time. Hopefully I will improve even more."

The glacial relations with the Flushing Meadows faithful appears to be thawing, the frosty reception that greeted his quarter-final entrance against Stan Wawrinka replaced by more generous applause ahead of his clash with Dimitrov. While 18-time Grand Slam champion Nadal figures to attract considerable support from the 24,000 fans at Arthur Ashe Stadium in the final, Medvedev doesn't expect the boos to return. "I would be surprised, but I

would have to take the energy and go again with this energy. As I say, I'm not proud of what I did. I'm working to never do it again," said Medvedev, described as a misunderstood genius by his coach. "I will not say that I'm a kind person or a good person. I can only say I'm a really calm person in life. I actually have no idea why the demons go out when I play tennis."

Medvedev was hit with a \$9,000 fine for

his antics in the third-round win over Feliciano Lopez, his third fine in as many matches, but the 23-year-old – a mellow figure off the court – wants his racquet to do the talking in the future.

"I lost a lot of matches in my career when I was getting crazy. You never know when you lose a match just because you lost it or because you get crazy and lost some concentration. You can never be sure about it," he said.

"I was sitting after these matches, I was like, 'I don't want to lose these matches because I get crazy or because I lose some concentration because of the fans, because of the referees, something that happens during the match. I want to lose matches because I was a worst tennis player on the court than my opponent. If I manage to do it every time, that's going to be great.'

BRIEFLY

Azad, Verma tons power India U19

Moratuwa: Opener Arjun Azad and No.3 NT Tilak Verma scored hundreds as India comfortably crushed arch-rivals Pakistan by 60 runs in an U-19 Asia Cup encounter here on Saturday. Batting first, India scored a challenging 305 for 9 in 50 overs riding on 183-run second wicket stand between Arjun (121 off 111 balls) and Tilak (110 off 119 balls). In reply, Pakistan were never in contention as they were bowled out for 245 in 46.4 overs. Left-arm spinner Atharva Ankolekar took 3 for 36 in 10 overs. Medium pacers Vidyadhar Patil and Sushant Mishra chipped in with a couple of wickets each. The right-hander, Arjun hit eleven fours and four sixes while Tilak had 10 boundaries and a six to his credit. None of the other India batsmen could surpass individual score of 20 as Pakistan seamers Naseem Shah (3/52) and Abbas Afridi (3/72) were taken to task despite returning with three wickets apiece.

BRIEF SCORES: India 305/9 in 50 ovs (Arjun Azad 121, NT Tilak Verma 110; Naseem Shah 3/52, Abbas Afridi 3/72) bt Pakistan 245 in 46.4 overs (Rohail Khan 117, Haris Khan 43; Atharva Ankolekar 3/36). PTI

India Red wins by an innings and 38 runs

Bangalore: Vidarbha off-spinner Akshay Wakhare returned with a five-wicket haul to help India Red beat India Green by an innings and 38 runs and clinch the Duleep Trophy title here on Saturday. Wakhare (5/13) spun the web around India Green batsmen to bowl them out for 119 in 39.5 overs in the second innings on the fourth day. India's Red's title triumph was the only outright result in the four matches played in the season opening tournament. Earlier, India Red extended their lead to 157 runs as Aditya Sarwate (38) and Jaydev Unadkat (32 not out) batted in a resolute manner, resuming at the overnight score of 345 for 6. Ankit Rajpoot and left-arm spinner Dharmendrasinh Jadeja finished with three wickets each. India Green's second innings fell apart apart openers – Faiz Fazal, the captain and Akshath Reddy (33) – were separated when the former nicked one from Unadkat to keeper Ishan Kishan on 10.

BRIEF SCORES: India Green: 231 all out in 72.1 overs (Mayank Markande 76 n.o.; Jaydev Unadkat 4/58) & 119 all out in 39.5 ovs (SD Lad 44, Akshath Reddy 33, A Wakhare 5/13) lost to India Red 388 all out in 135 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 153; Ankit Rajpoot 3/101, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 3/93, M Markande 1/24, Tanveer ul-Haq 2/66). PTI

Jain loses to World No.1, bags silver

New Delhi: India's Payas Jain lost to top-seed and world number 1 Yuanyu Chen of China 0-4 to settle for the silver medal in the 25th Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on Saturday. Jain did show his aggression initially but in the face of a fine attacking play by the Chinese, the Delhi paddler wilted and lost 11-13 6-11 8-11 5-11 in less than 20 minutes. There was a time in the first game when Jain matched his Chinese rival and even deuced after trailing. But the top-seeded Chinese converted the point at the second opportunity to go ahead. After that, it was a one-way traffic as Chen made most of Jain's mistakes to cash in on when the Chinese went for his favourite blocks. Jain's silver medal earned him a berth in the Asian squad which will participate in the World Cadet Challenge at Wladyslawowo (Poland) in October. India's campaign at the championships ended with two silver medals -- one by the junior boys team and another by Jain. PTI

1ST TEST

Afghanistan continue to torment Bangladesh

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
CHITTAGONG, SEPTEMBER 7

Ibrahim Zadran and Asghar Afghan hit half-centuries while Rashid Khan played a quick cameo after claiming five wickets in an innings, as Afghanistan took command in the one-off Test against Bangladesh in Chittagong on Saturday.

The visitors – playing only their third Test in history – reached 237 for 8 at stumps on the third day, setting a huge target for Bangladesh by taking an overall lead of 374 runs. Debutant Zadran hit highest 87 off 208 balls for Afghanistan in the second innings while former skipper Afghan made 50 off 108 balls, his second fifty, adding to Bangladesh's frustration.

Rashid added 24 off 22 balls before wicketkeeper-batsman Afzal Zazai's unbeaten 34 runs extended Afghanistan's lead. Skipper Shakib Al Hasan took three wickets for Bangladesh, including two in the first over of the innings, but Zadran and Afghan shared



Rashid Khan (5/55) was the pick of the bowlers for Afghanistan. File

108 runs for the fourth wicket to snatch the momentum back for Afghanistan.

Shakib trapped Ihsanullah Janat for four in the third ball of the innings and then dismissed first innings centurion Rahmat Shah

for a golden duck in the next ball. Afghan, who also made 92 runs in the first innings, joined Zadran after off-spinner Nayeem Hasan removed Hashmatullah Shahidi for 12. Taijul Islam dismissed Afghan,

who hit four fours and two sixes in his second of the game, before Nayeem ended Zadran's brilliant innings featuring six fours and four sixes. The spinner also dismissed Mohammad Nabi in the next ball after the all-rounder hit him for a six to revive some hope for Bangladesh. Rashid then took the attack on Nayeem, hitting him for five boundaries in one over before Taijul bowled him finally.

The Afghan skipper earlier completed his five-wicket to finish with 5-55 as Afghanistan bowled out Bangladesh for 205 runs in the first innings after the hosts resumed the third day's play with 194-8.

Rashid, who scored 51 runs with the bat

making his debut as youngest-ever Test captain, took the final wicket of Nayeem to wrap up Bangladesh's innings after Nabi gave a breakthrough in the first over of the day.

BRIEF SCORES: Afghanistan 342 all out in 117 ovs & 237 for 8 in 83.4 ovs (Ibrahim Zadran 87, Asghar Afghan 50; Shakib Al Hasan 3/53) vs Bangladesh 205 all out in 70.5 ovs (Mominul Haque 52; Rashid Khan 5/55)

Time for selectors to take a call on Dhoni: Kumble

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

FORMER INDIA captain and coach Anil Kumble is "not sure" whether Mahendra Singh Dhoni fits in the current set-up and wants the selectors to have a "conversation" with him before preparing for a send-off befitting his contribution. Dhoni's future in international cricket has been a subject of debate and there are enough indications that the selectors are looking ahead.

"I'm not really sure. I think Pant has certainly made a lot of claims as a keeper-batsman, especially in the T20 format. So, it's important to have a conversation and you need to have a proper send-off, he certainly deserves that," Kumble told CricketNext when asked if he would like to see Dhoni continue in top flight cricket.

"I'm not really sure. I think Pant has certainly made a lot of claims as a keeper-batsman, especially in the T20 format. So, it's important to have a conversation and you need to have a proper send-off, he certainly deserves that," Kumble told CricketNext when asked if he would like to see Dhoni continue in top flight cricket.

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serves that," Kumble told CricketNext when asked if he would like to see Dhoni continue in top flight cricket.

Kumble also said that he is not very sure whether Rohit Sharma is the perfect choice for the Test opener's slot. "You only know when you actually do that but I am not really sure about pushing Rohit at the top unless it is a desperate situation. Yes, are we in a desper-

Ferrari's Leclerc takes pole in Italian GP

REUTERS
MONZA, SEPTEMBER 7

CHARLES LECLERC put Ferrari on pole position for their home Italian Formula One Grand Prix on Saturday in a qualifying session that ended in farce and with drivers under investigation. Five times world champion Lewis Hamilton joined the 21-year-old Monegasque on the front row for Mercedes, with Finnish team mate Valtteri Bottas third and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel fourth.

The last lap saw nine drivers cruising around, weaving and braking but with nobody willing to take the lead, and only McLaren's Carlos Sainz making it to the line in time for a final fast lap. He ended up seventh. "That was worse than a junior formula," a fuming Toto Wolff, team principal of world champions Mercedes, told Sky Sports television. "The problem was everyone wants a slipstream and nobody wants to go first...and then everyone looks like idiots."

Stewards said in a note on the timing screens that the last lap was under investigation. Alfa Romeo's Kimi Raikkonen, the other driver through to the final phase of qualifying and last year's pole sitter for Ferrari, had earlier crashed at Parabolica -- halting the session for 11 minutes.

When the session re-started, with Leclerc on provisional pole after setting the pace before the red flag, there were minutes of inaction. That was followed by a sudden flurry, with cars streaming out of the pitlane and jostling for position in a closely-grouped pack. The irony of the slowest of qualifying laps at the fastest of tracks, a circuit where slipstreaming can be a huge benefit to lap times, was not lost on Hamilton, who has taken more poles than any driver in history.

"They basically timed us out," said Hamilton. "It's interesting. Get pole position in the first run and then just time everyone out. It's dangerous for us all. There's people slowing down and you don't know who's alongside you and that," he continued. "It's definitely risky business out there."

Ferrari's army of fans were left celebrating anyway in grandstands strewn with banners from all over Italy declaring their passion and loyalty. The pole was Leclerc's fourth of the season and second in a row. The Monegasque will be chasing his second successive victory on Sunday after winning for the first time in Belgium last weekend.

"I'm happy with the pole but it's a shame at the end there was a big mess and I hoped our last lap was enough," said the youngster.

"I think the pace was quite good actually during the race simulations," he said of Ferrari's hopes of ending a win drought at Monza dating back to 2010, when Fernando Alonso was triumphant.

"It's looking positive, better than in Spa." Renault's Nico Hulkenberg, who qualified a provisional sixth and behind Australian team mate Daniel Ricciardo in fifth, took much of the heat afterwards for running off track after being first out of the pits.

MONZA QUALIFYING

Pos	Driver	Car	Time
1	Leclerc	Ferrari	1:19.307
2	Hamilton	Mercedes	1:19.346
3	Bottas	Mercedes	1:19.354
4	Vettel	Ferrari	1:19.457
5	Ricciardo	Renault	1:19.839

Thriller on the cards

Australia declare gamely to set England a target of 383; hosts lose Burns, Root to finish Day Four at 18 for 2



Steve Smith followed up his first-innings double ton with 82 off just 92 balls as Australia declared late on Day Four at Old Trafford. Reuters

AGENCIES
MANCHESTER, SEPTEMBER 8

ENGLAND FOUND themselves with a fight on their hands at stumps on Day Four of the fourth Ashes Test after being reduced to 18 for 2 in 7 overs. They had been set a target of 383. The hosts seemed to be losing grip over proceedings after Australia gamely declared at 186 for 6 in 42.4 overs with Steve Smith once again proving to be the thorn in the flesh of England bowlers with a quickfire 82 off 92.

Even when Smith was dismissed off left-arm spinner Jack Leach, it was more a case of the batsman going for quick runs with a declaration looming rather than England foxing him. England's hopes of surviving the last 40 minutes without losing a wicket went up in smoke as Pat Cummins dismissed Rory Burns in the third ball of the innings and in the next ball had captain Joe Root bowled with one that nipped off the seam and hit the top of off-stump. A grim-faced Root walked off with the look of a man who knew that his team would have to face a tough battle on the final day.

The England batsman would have been happy not to face any more overs from the Australian quicks who had their tails up.

With the five-match series at 1-1, Australia can retain the Ashes with victory at Old Trafford. That's more likely than England surviving a fifth-day pitch against an Australia team full of self-belief. The forecast is for a dry Sunday. After England's first innings was ended on 301, conceding a lead of 196, Smith and Matthew Wade revived Australia from 44-4 in their second innings with a stand of 105.

Wade added 34, and captain Tim Paine had



Josh Hazlewood took four wickets in the first innings giving away 57 runs.

the luxury of declaring their second innings on 186 for 6 in the middle of the 43rd over, and a lead of 382. On 23 not out at the time, Paine sprinted off the Old Trafford field so he could give his bowlers seven overs to attack England in evening light.

Smith was at his best yet again and looked set for another big score, but put his team's needs - that of a quick declaration before his personal milestone. It once again looked like a hundred was there for the taking and it was only his unusual haste to up the runrate that saw him perish. The Australian innings didn't begin on a bright note as open David Warner

continued to struggle against the pace of Stuart

Broad.

Smith was at his best once again and looked set for another big score, but put his team's needs - that of a quick declaration before his personal milestone. It once again looked like a hundred was there for the taking and it was only his unusual haste to up the runrate that saw him perish.

Broad dismissed David Warner for a third duck in as many Test innings at Old Trafford on Saturday as the England paceman continued to torment the Australia opener in the Ashes series. Broad, bowling from around the wicket, had left-hander Warner lbw sixth ball to leave Australia none for one in their second innings of the fourth Test.

Broad also had Warner caught behind for nought in Australia's first innings 497-8 declared, having had him lbw for nought in the second innings of England's dramatic one-wicket win in the third Test at Headingley.

This is Warner's first Test series since a 12-month ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

But this Ashes has seen the 32-year-old

Warner, now playing in his 78th Test, become Broad's bunny.

Saturday's dismissal meant 33-year-old fast-medium bowler Broad had now taken Warner's wicket six times this series for a cost of 32 runs in 93 balls. Warner, who did not even bother to review umpire Marais Erasmus's decision when given out on Saturday, is only the third Australia opening batsman to make three successive nothings in Test cricket after Victor Trumper in 1908 and Graeme Wood in 1980.

Marnus Labuschagne failed to reach fifty

for the first time in four Test innings since coming in as a substitute for Smith at Lord's when he was bowled lbw for 11 by Archer. Labuschagne appeared to take exception to being given a 'send-off' by Broad as he left the field.

Travis Head then exchanged words with Archer after being hit by a rising delivery on the left bicep. The next delivery saw Head drive Archer through the covers for four, but the ball afterwards saw Head clean bowled middle stump for 12 by a 91.7 mph Archer delivery that beat his forward defensive stroke. England, who resumed on their overnight 200-5, avoided following-on with just one wicket standing thanks to Jos Buttler's cover-driven four off Mitchell Starc.

That boundary came after Australia were unable to challenge an lbw decision against No 11 Jack Leach -- whose last-man resistance in support of century-maker Ben Stokes helped England win at Headingley -- because they had used up all their reviews.

Buttler was last man out in total of 301, bowled for 41 by Pat Cummins.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia 497 for 8 dcll in 126 ovs & 186 for 6 dcll in 42.5 ovs (S Smith 82, MWade 34; J Archer 3/45) vs England 301 all out in 107 ovs & 18 for 2 in 7 ovs (P Cummins 2/8)

Netherlands give Loew's Germany a reality check

REUTERS
HAMBURG, SEPTEMBER 6

NETHERLANDS SCORED four times in 32 seconds-half minutes to secure a remarkable 4-2 comeback victory against hosts Germany in their Euro 2020 Group C qualifier on Friday. Goals from Frenkie de Jong, a Jonathan Tah own goal, Donyell Malen and Georginio Wijnaldum wrapped up the win after Serge Gnabry had given the hosts an early lead and Toni Kroos had pulled them level at 2-2 with a controversial penalty.

The result leaves Germany on nine points from four games, three behind leaders Northern Ireland, who they face on Monday in Belfast. The Netherlands move to six points from three games and next face bottom side Estonia. It was a winning return to Hamburg for Dutch coach Ronald Koeman, who won in the port city against the Germans as a player during Euro '88, and a clear mark of his team's improvement after they failed to reach the last two major tournaments. "I told my players (at half-time) to stay in the game, not to give them so much space, control the ball better," Koeman told reporters. "That we should just keep going and we would get our chances. In the second half the Germans looked more tired and we benefited from that." "Overall we worked harder than Germany for this victory," he said.

Joachim Loew's Germany side, undergoing their own overhaul after a disappointing 2018 World Cup first round exit and Nations League relegation, got off to a good start with Gnabry scoring on the rebound in the ninth minute. There was little to be seen in terms of attacks from the Netherlands but that changed after the break. They turned the game around within seven minutes, first scoring through De Jong in the 59th and then taking the lead courtesy of Tah's unfortunate own goal.

The Germans, missing several injured players, including Leroy Sane and Leon Goretzka, were struggling with the Dutch pace down the wings and were lucky to level with a 73rd minute Kroos penalty after Matthijs de Ligt accidentally handled.

There is no video replay for referees in the qualifiers. The visitors got revenge for their 3-2 loss in Amsterdam in March, striking through debutant Malen in the 79th after a quick combination left the German defence frozen. Wijnaldum completed the victory in stoppage time and ended Germany's 14-match winning run in World Cup and Euro qualifiers.

"We played below our skill level and abilities," Loew told reporters. "The Dutch were the better team and we deserved to lose. We went ahead but I never had the feeling that we were in control of the game."

Robertson upset

Scotland captain Andy Robertson delivered a withering verdict on their 2-1 Euro 2020 qualifying defeat by Russia on Friday which he said was one of the most disappointing of his career. Liverpool defender Robertson said Scotland appeared scared after taking the lead at Hampden Park and then leaking goals either side of halftime. The Scots are fourth in Group I, nine points adrift of leaders Belgium, who they play in Glasgow on Monday, six behind Russia and a point off Kazakhstan. "(The defeat) was one of the most disappointing because of how much was on the line," said Robertson. "We had a chance to go level with them and that would have opened this group right up. Referring to Scotland's disappointing results over recent years, he added: "Russia are a very good team, so it's probably not up there with the Georgia (1-0) and Kazakhstan (3-0).



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